KAMOME SHIRAHAMA

Witch Hat Atelier

VOLUME 1

KAMOME
SHIRAHAMA
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Atelier
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1

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 ♦ 003

CHAPTER 2 ♦ 067

CHAPTER 3 ♦ 105

CHAPTER 4 ♦ 137

CHAPTER 5 ♦ 173

WITCH HAT ATELIER

♦

KAMOME
SHIRAHAMA

IS AN ATHLETE ALWAYS AN ATHLETE, EVEN FROM WERE BIRTH?

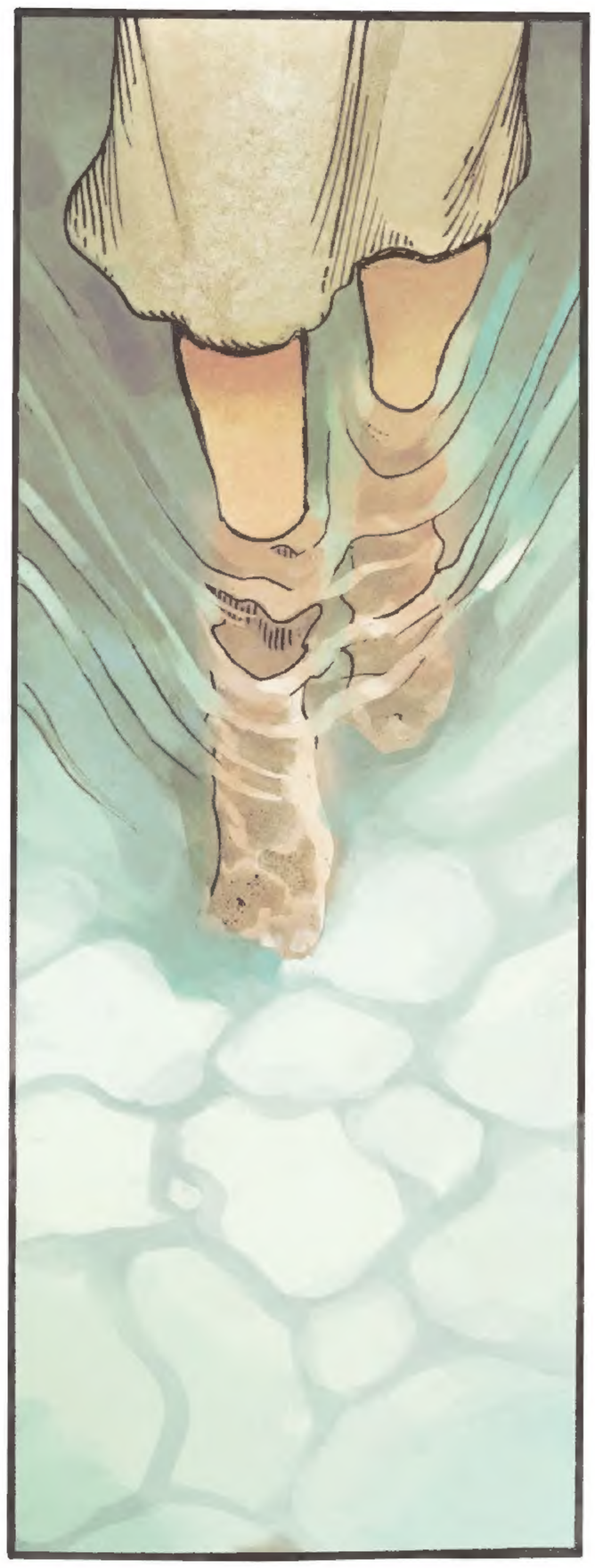
WHAT ABOUT ASTRONAUTS? OR POP STARS?

YOU CAN'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE UNTIL YOU GROW UP, RIGHT?

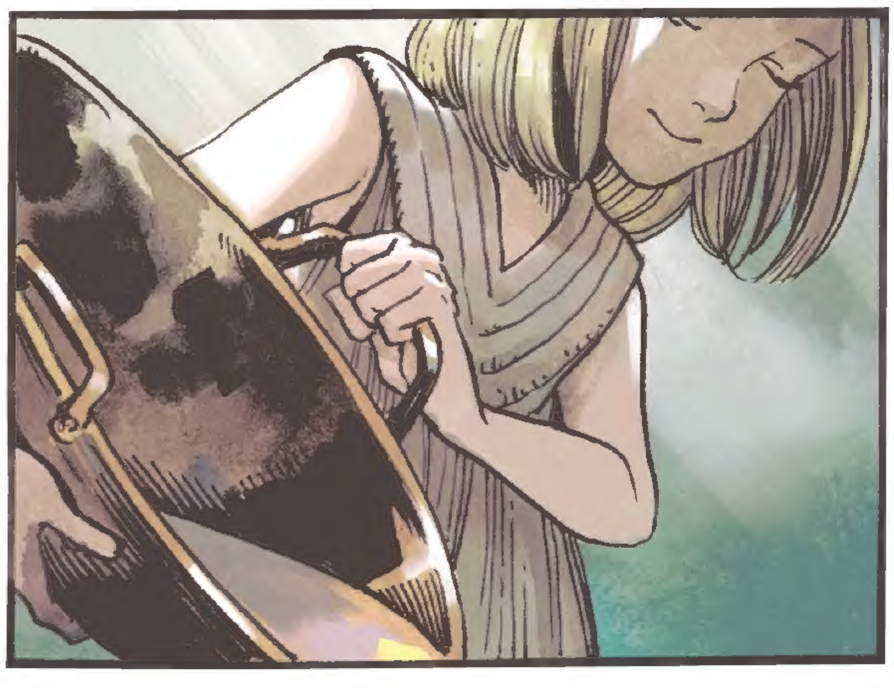
SO...

WHAT ABOUT WITCHES? IS IT THE SAME FOR THEM?

Chapter 1



ミチばあ——っ
SPLORSH



OH!

SORRY ABOUT THE MESS!

SCRUB

SCRUB

SCRUB

SCRUB

BUBBLE BUBBLE

FOAM

FOAM

OOZE

THIS IS A MAGIC SPRING, YOU KNOW!

DON'T WORRY. IT'LL BE GONE IN NO TIME.

SHIMMER

SPLISH

HUMMM

PERK

SO BEAUTIFUL ...

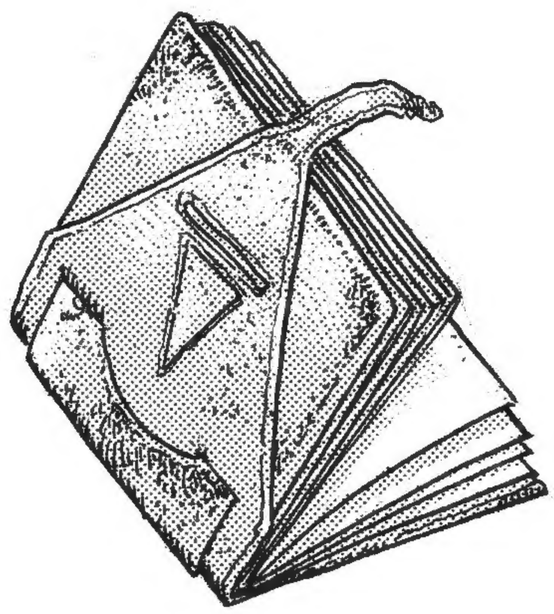
IT NEVER GETS OLD. MAGIC IS AMAZING!

THE WORLD IS BRIMMING WITH MAGIC. IT BRINGS BOONS TO US ALL.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO IMAGINE LIFE WITHOUT IT.

BUT I HAVE NO IDEA...

...HOW EXACTLY MAGIC WORKS.



ONLY WITCHES CAN CAST SPELLS.

THE REST OF US CAN ONLY BASK IN WHATEVER COMES OUR WAY.

YOU CAN'T JUST **BECOME** A WITCH.

GLANCE HIM

I WISH...

...I HAD BEEN BORN A WITCH.

O, FRESHLY WASHED SHEET, CLEAN AND WHITE...

I COMMAND YOU NOW— BE MY CLOAK OF FLIGHT!

FW

IP

BLUSH
カァ――ッ

HANG
し――――ん……

…

HUH?!

ぶぉ
FWOOSH
ホ――ッ

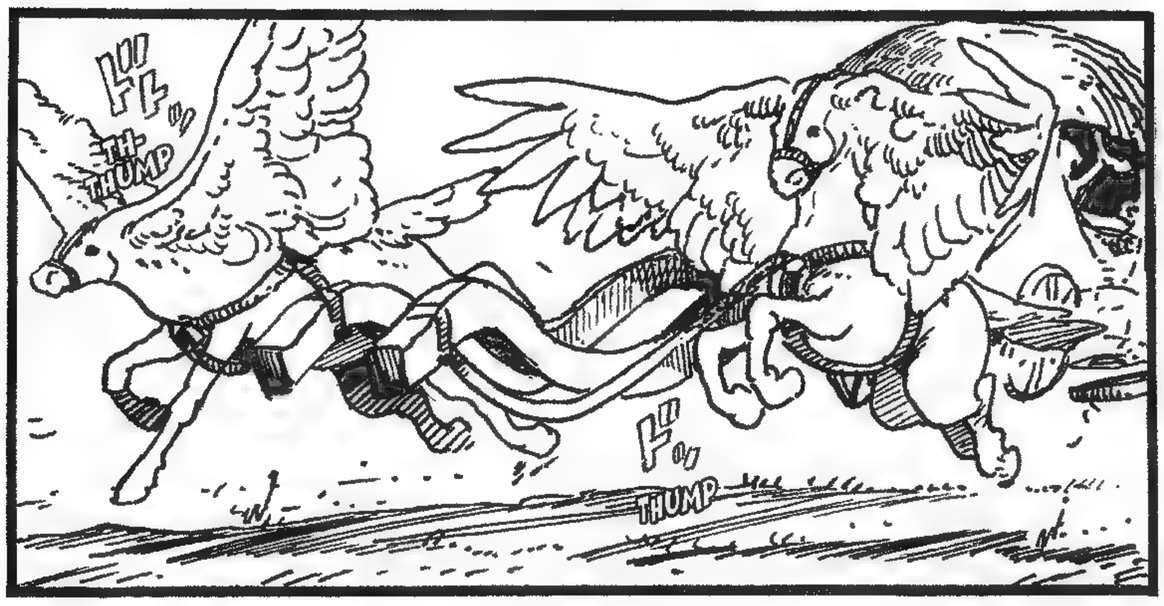
NO!
DON'T GET
CAUGHT IN
THE WIND!

Wait!
Stop!!

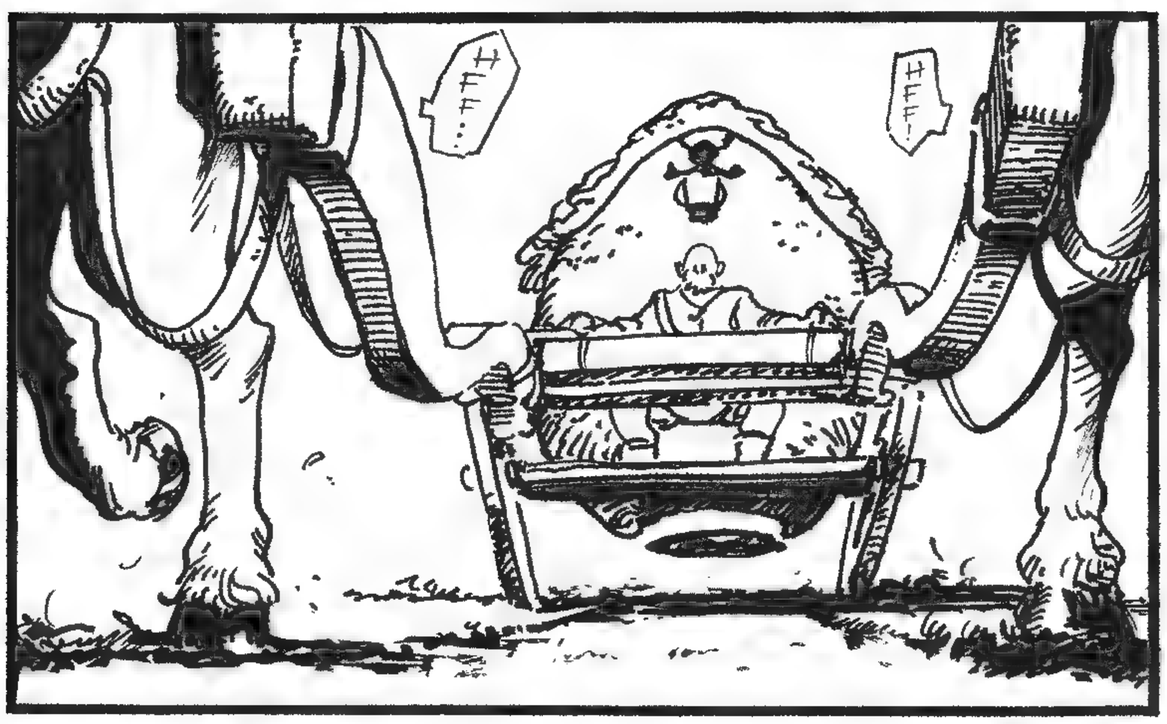
THAT'S
NOT THE
KIND OF
FLYING I
WAS TALKING
ABOUT!!

…!

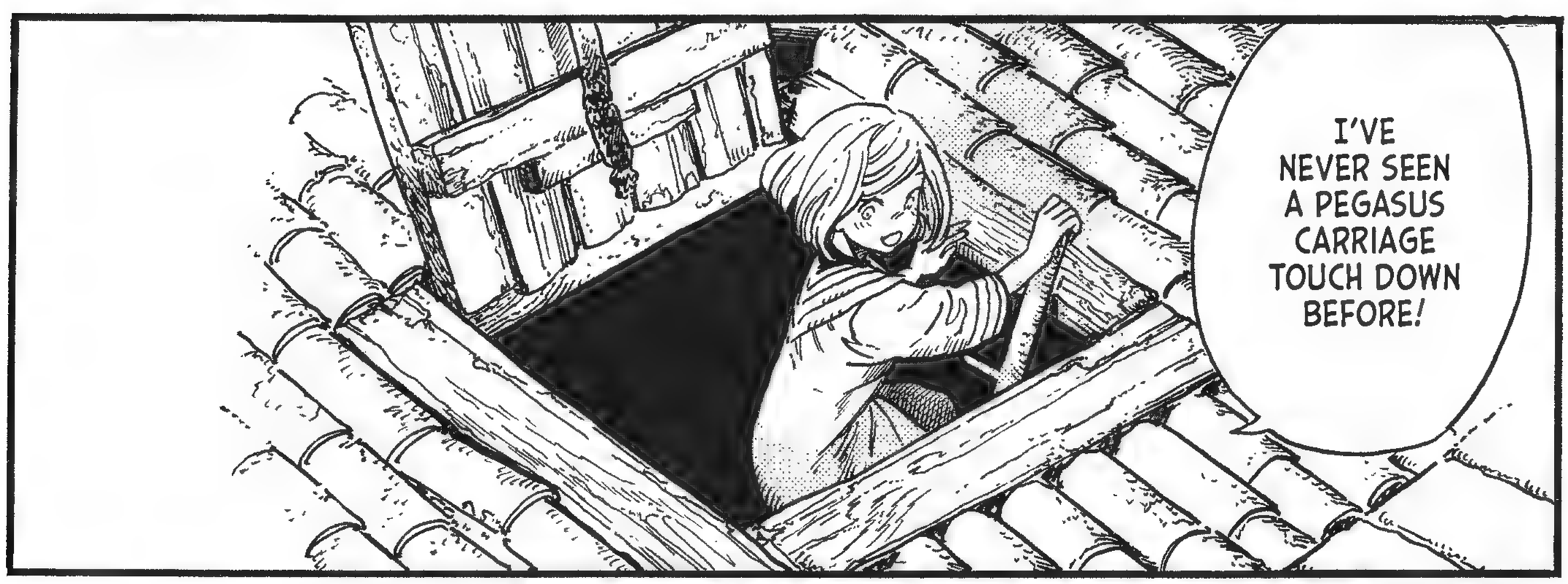
IS THAT
A…?


TH-THUMP
THUMP

IT IS! IT'S A PEGASUS CARRIAGE!


HFF...
HFF!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
IT LANDED HERE IN THE VILLAGE!


I'VE NEVER SEEN A PEGASUS CARRIAGE TOUCH DOWN BEFORE!

MOM, WHERE ARE YOU?
WHOA, THERE.

MOOO-OOM!

MOM! MOM! LOOK OUTSIDE!

OH, I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE THERE!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

IT'S MY FAULT FOR STANDING BY THE DOOR.

SEEMS I'VE COME AT A BUSY TIME...

I THINK IT'S NICE. MAKES YOU LOOK PROPER. INTELLIGENT, EVEN!

BUT LOOK! THIS IS *HARRIAN* LACE!

WOOD SORREL EMBROIDERY? IS THAT *STILL* IN FASHION?

THE CASTLE MARKETS RAN OUT OF THIS AGES AGO!

WOOO

OOW

THEY'RE THE ONES WHO CAME HERE ON THE PEGASUS CARRIAGE!

!

BRINGING THE CARRIAGE ALL THE WAY OUT HERE WAS A GOOD IDEA AFTER ALL!

HM? OH, NO...

I'M NOT WITH THEM.

You can stop looking at me like that.

...!

THESE LITTLE HAMLETS ARE AMAZING!

COCO!

EXCUSE ME, BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE LACE LIKE THIS?

WE DO! JUST ONE MOMENT.

HOW ABOUT A HAND?

I NEED A LENGTH OF SMOKE-COLORED CLOTH, BUT...

I CAN COME BACK IF YOU'RE BUSY.

I've got the measurements right here.

AND YOU, SIR? WHAT CAN WE HELP YOU WITH?

IS THAT SO?

COCO KNOWS HER STUFF.

YOU?

I CAN CUT THAT FOR YOU.

YOU BREAK THAT THING, THERE'S NO WITCH AROUND TO FIX IT, Y'KNOW.

WHAT HAVE I TOLD YOU ABOUT PLAYING WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S PROPERTY?

I WON'T TOUCH! I'M JUST GONNA LOOK!

...WHEN I'M DONE, CAN I GO OUT AND SEE THE CARRIAGE?

HEY, MOM...

...HOW I WISH I COULD USE MAGIC.

PLEASE? I PROMISE TO STOP TALKING ABOUT...

...

Gotta hurry. Gotta hurry.

Go, go, go!

HOORAY!

FINE. BUT ONLY IF YOU'RE QUICK ABOUT FINISHING YOUR WORK!

OH, HEAVENS ...

FWISH

SFFF

TICK

TICK

SST

SHICK

FFFS

!

SSSSSSSST

QUITE THE CONCEN-TRATION.

STEADY HANDS, TOO.

MY, MY...

STAAA

ARE

Eeep! H-Has he been watching this whole time?!

Does he have to stand so close?!

D...

THIS IS SOME *REAL* MAGIC.

PRECISE MEASURE-MENT... A PERFECTLY STRAIGHT CUT...

I HAD NO IDEA THIS VILLAGE WAS HOME TO SUCH AN ARTISAN.

PUMP
PUMP
PUMP
PUMP
PUMP
MAGIC'S ALL...
...SPARKLY, AND MYSTERIOUS...
...AND WONDERFUL, AND PRICE-LESS...
...AND... AND...
NOT TRUE!
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA! YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!
NO WAY!
UH-UH!
Ohhhhh...
...AND...
...PRE-CIOUS.
...BEAUTI-FUL...
MIGHT I INQUIRE AS TO WHY?
IT... WOULD APPEAR YOU ARE QUITE FOND OF MAGIC.
What am I even saying...?
AHH...

WHEN I WAS REALLY LITTLE, MY MOM ONCE TOOK ME TO A FESTIVAL AT THE CASTLE...

...FROM A WITCH WEARING A MASK.

I BOUGHT A SLIM BOOK THAT DAY...

A SLIM BOOK?

MM-HM!

Seemed like it was handmade.

YOU THERE, GIRL. WOULDN'T YOU...

...LIKE TO BUY A PICTURE BOOK ABOUT MAGIC?

I LIKE PICTURE BOOKS.

BUT... WHAT'S "MAGIC"?

"MAGIC"?

...IS THE MIRACLE THAT MAKES OUR WORLD VIBRANT...

MAGIC, MY DEAR...

EVEN THE COBBLESTONES AT YOUR FEET, GENTLY GLOWING AS YOU STRIDE ALONG...

ALL THESE THINGS ARE THANKS TO MAGIC.

PEGASUS CARRIAGES THAT SOAR ACROSS THE SKY...

SPRINGS OF PURE WATER THAT LAST FOR ALL ETERNITY...

I LOVE MAGIC!

MAGIC IS THE BESTEST ...!

INDEED. SO, HOW ABOUT IT? I'LL THROW IN THIS FREE WAND.

WOW! IT'S SO PRETTY ...!

A PICTURE BOOK ABOUT MAGIC!

BUT IT'S SO AMAZING!

I GAVE YOU THAT MONEY BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME YOU WANTED A ROASTED STRAWBERRY TREAT, YOU KNOW.

AND SO THIS WITCH TALKED YOU INTO BUYING IT, HUH?

SEE? ON THE BOTTOM, IT'S A PEN!

IT CAME WITH INK, TOO!

TA-DAH!

AND, UM...

AND THE MAGIC PERSON... EVEN GAVE ME A FREE WAND!

RUMMAGE

RUMMAGE

RUMMAGE

RUMMAGE

YOU CAN'T.

ガーン SHOCK

HUH?! WHY NOT?!

...I'M GONNA BE A WITCH AND MAKE THE WORLD VIBRANT, TOO!

WHEN I GROW UP...

REGULAR FOLK LIKE US JUST DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES.

YOU CAN'T BECOME A WITCH. YOU HAVE TO BE BORN THAT WAY.

ALL RIGHT. LET'S HEAD ON HOME, AND IF THE GROUND KEEPS GLOWING ALL THE WAY THERE...

...THEN MAYBE YOU CAN USE MAGIC, AFTER ALL.

BUT LOOK! WHEN I WALK, THE GROUND LIGHTS UP!

I MEAN, I THOUGHT WITH ALL THE MONEY I SPENT ON THAT LITTLE BOOK, IT MIGHT SHOW *HOW* TO USE MAGIC, BUT...

...

FRET FRET FRET FRET FRET FRET FRET FRET FRET FRET FRET FRET FRET

I COULDN'T STOP HOPING THAT MAYBE...

EVER SINCE THEN, I'VE JUST LIKED WATCHING IT, AND I GUESS...

...SELLING BOOKS AT THE CASTLE FESTIVAL?

A WITCH...

THAT WAS *LOUD*...

SOMETHING OUTSIDE?

WHAT'S ALL THAT?

Eek!

Whoa!

CRASH!!

IF YOU DON'T MIND, PERHAPS YOU COULD TELL ME MORE AB—

JOLT

WHIRL

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!

!

HIS HEAD HIT THE BOTTOM AND IT FELL OVER.

TATTLE-TALE!

NUH-UH. TANERL WAS CRAWLING AROUND UNDER-NEATH.

WE DIDN'T EVEN TOUCH IT! IT JUST FELL APART!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO *DO* ABOUT THIS?!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO OUR CARRIAGE?!

THAT BELONGS TO MY *FATHER*, YOU KNOW!

DON'T BE ABSURD! WE WOULD NEVER...!

THESE *BUMPKINS* MUST HAVE PLANNED TO *STRAND* US AND *TAKE* OUR VALU—

AN APOLOGY WON'T GET US *HOME!*

FUME

SEETHE

THE CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR WAS *QUITE* INEXCUS-ABLE.

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.

PERHAPS *I* COULD BE OF SERVICE?

PARDON ME, BUT...

...ARE *YOU* SUPPOSED TO BE?!

AND JUST *WHO*...

THE DAMAGE DOESN'T APPEAR SERIOUS.

...AT YOUR SERVICE.

QIFREY THE WITCH...

AH.

MY APOLOGIES. ALLOW ME TO *CAP OFF* MY ATTIRE.

RUMMAGE

RUMMAGE

WHOA!

COCO!

YOU CAN USE OUR WORKSHOP!

OF COURSE, THAT'S A LITTLE DIFFICULT OUTDOORS ...

I MERELY HAVE TO RE-CAST THE SPELL ON THE CARRIAGE'S BASEBOARD.

THAT HAT! YOU REALLY *ARE* A WITCH. CAN YOU FIX IT?

You really want this, don't you?

HEAVENS, CHILD. YOUR FACE IS BEET RED.

WE'D BE *DELIGHTED!* RIGHT, MOM?!

AND BESIDES...

...WE MIGHT EVEN GET A CHANCE TO *SEE* IT...

THIS KIND OF THING *NEVER* HAPPENS AROUND HERE!

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

HE'S A *REAL, LIVE* WITCH!

だ"ば"

だ"ば"

だ"ば"

FLAP

FLAP

THE MOMENT WHEN HE CASTS HIS SPELL!

I'M SMILING SO HARD, I THINK MY FACE IS GOING TO BREAK! HANG IN THERE, LITTLE SMILE MUSCLES!!

OH WOW OH

WOW OH WOW

AHH! THIS IS SOOOO AMAZING!

IT'S JUST UN-BE-LIEVABLE!!

...UH-HUH?

...RIGHT?

JOLT

ERM, IT'S UH...

COCO...

AND... I WONDER IF I COULD IMPOSE ONE MORE REQUEST.

THE USE OF YOUR WORKSHOP WOULD BE MOST WELCOME.

MANY THANKS.

WOULD YOU MIND?

JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING YOU COULD HELP WITH.

ぽっねん
SLUMP

...THERE'S NOBODY PEEKING AS I CAST THE SPELL.

NO ONE IS TO COME INSIDE. NO MATTER WHAT.

GOT THAT?

I'D LIKE YOU TO WATCH THE DOOR FOR ME, AND MAKE CERTAIN...

WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT **WATCHING,** ANYWAY?

MY HOPES AND DREAMS, DASHED TO PIECES...

My poor little smile muscles, utterly betrayed...

HEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

UGH! BUSTED!

WHAT? IT'S JUST COCO.

SLINK

THERE'S MAGIC ALL OVER THE WORLD.

WHY WOULD THE PART WHEN IT GETS CAST BE SUCH A BIG SECRET?

Ooo

SHWOOP

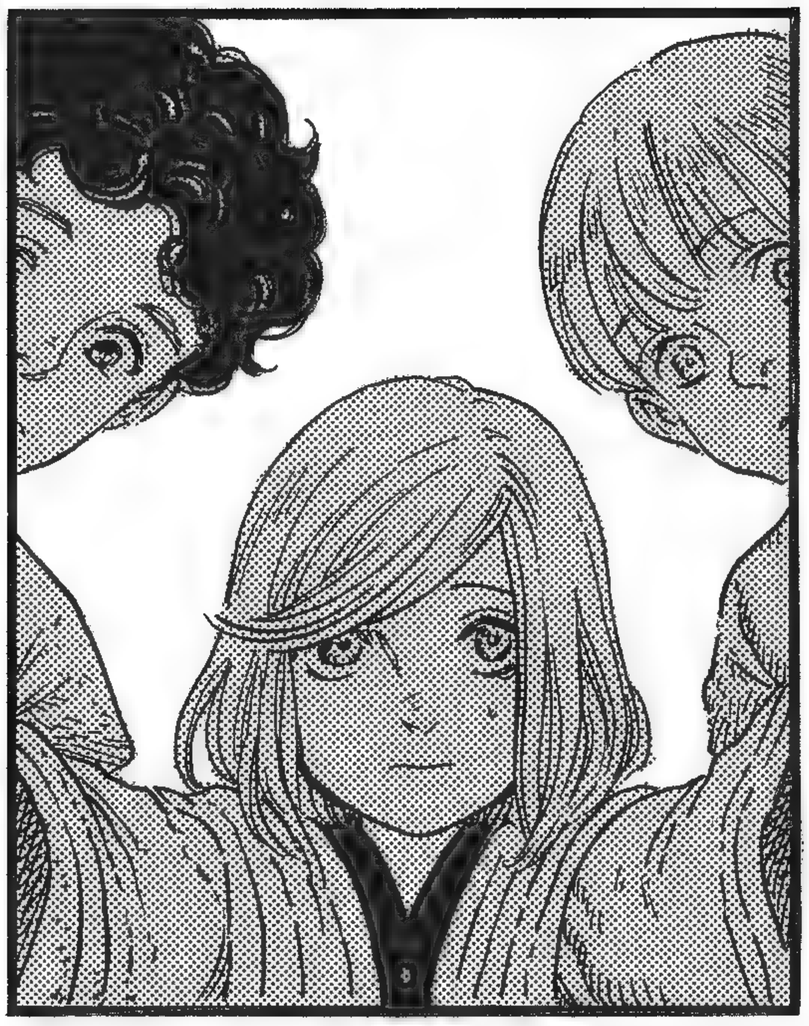
Huh?

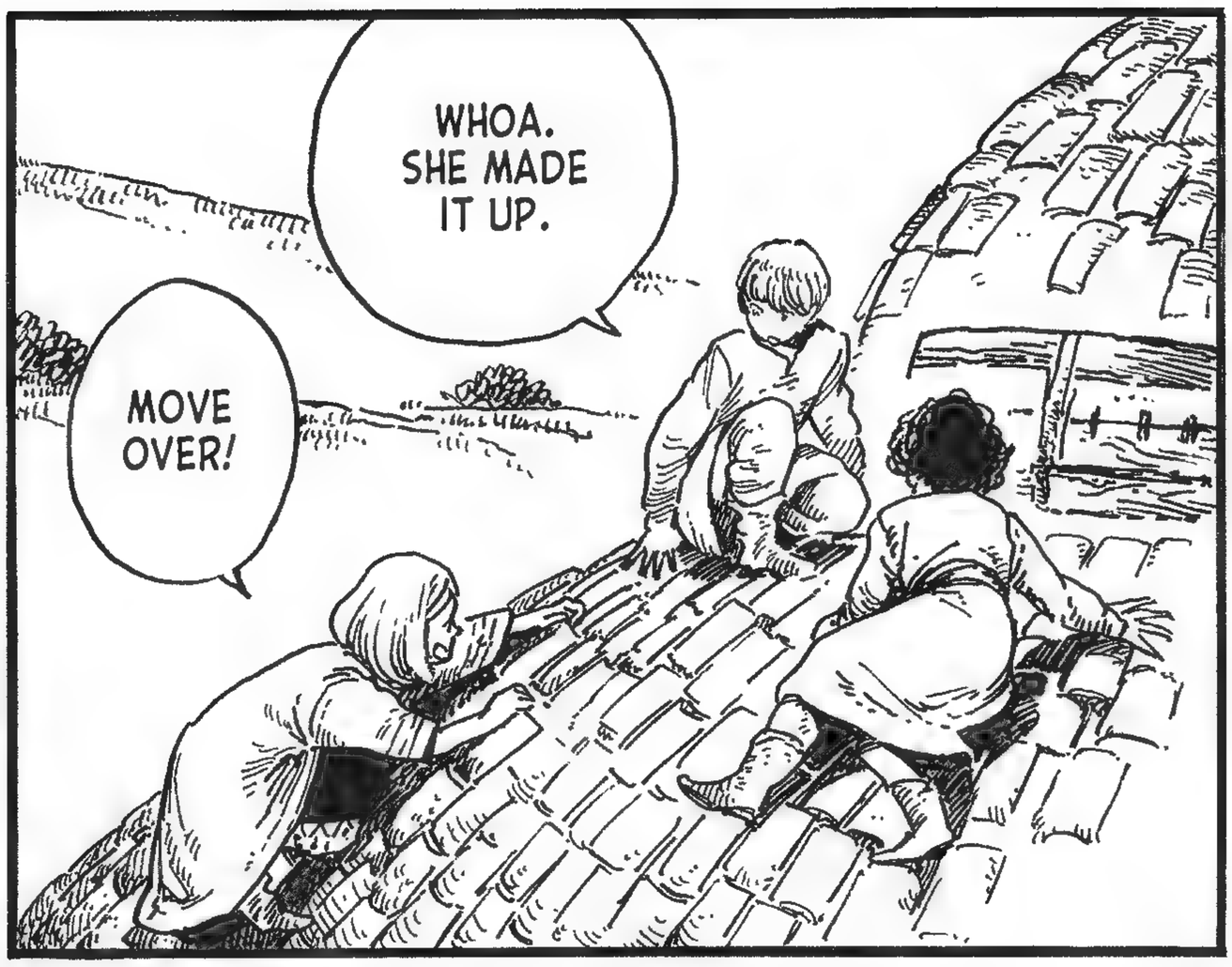
THEN I DO, TOO!

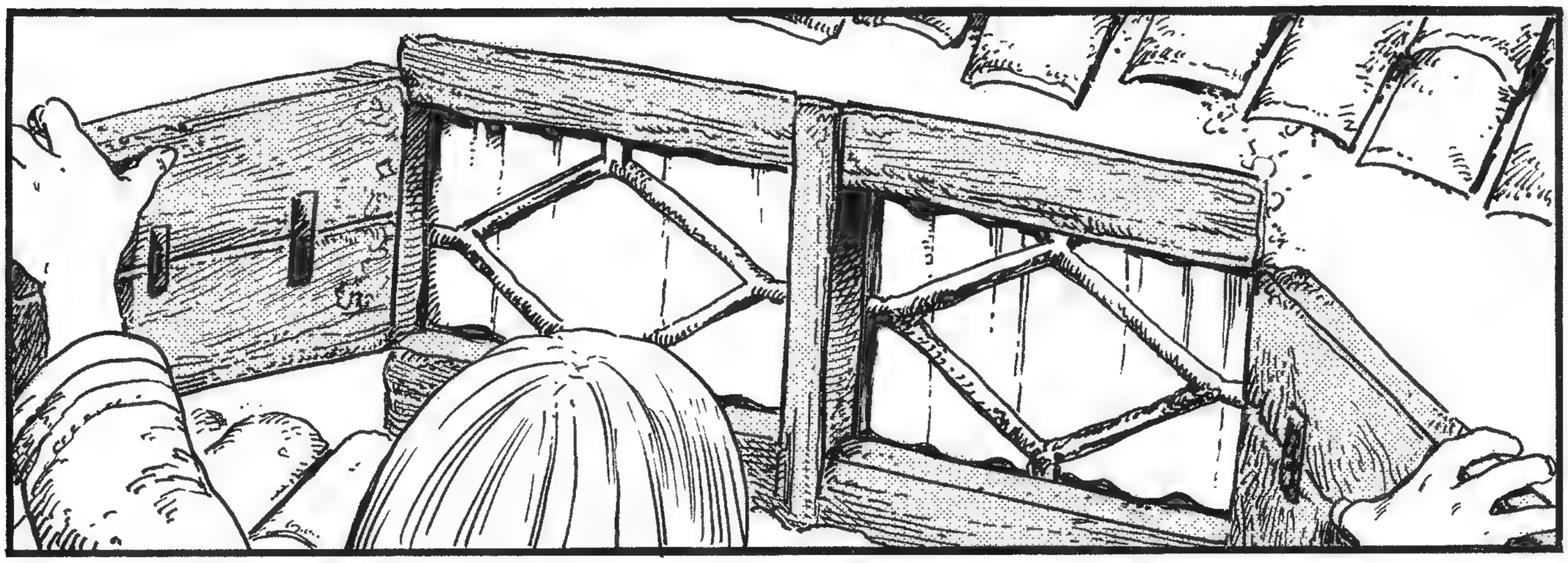
...IF YOU GET TO LOOK INSIDE...

WE'RE GONNA CHECK OUT THE SKYLIGHT. MAYBE WE CAN SEE INSIDE.

NO! THAT'S NOT FAIR!




WHOA.
SHE MADE
IT UP.
MOVE
OVER!



...

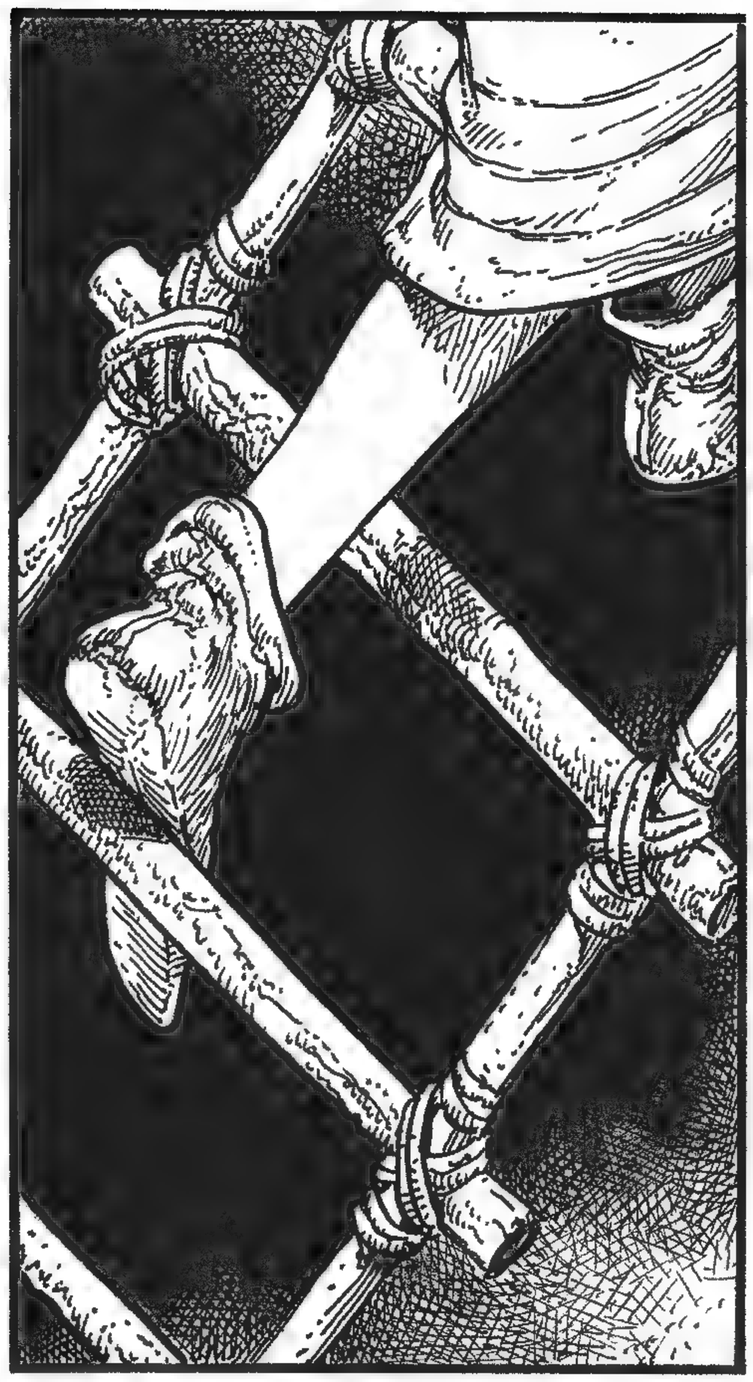
AW,
COME ON!
THE *CURTAINS*
ARE SHUT!
THIS
STINKS!
LET'S GET
OUTTA
HERE.

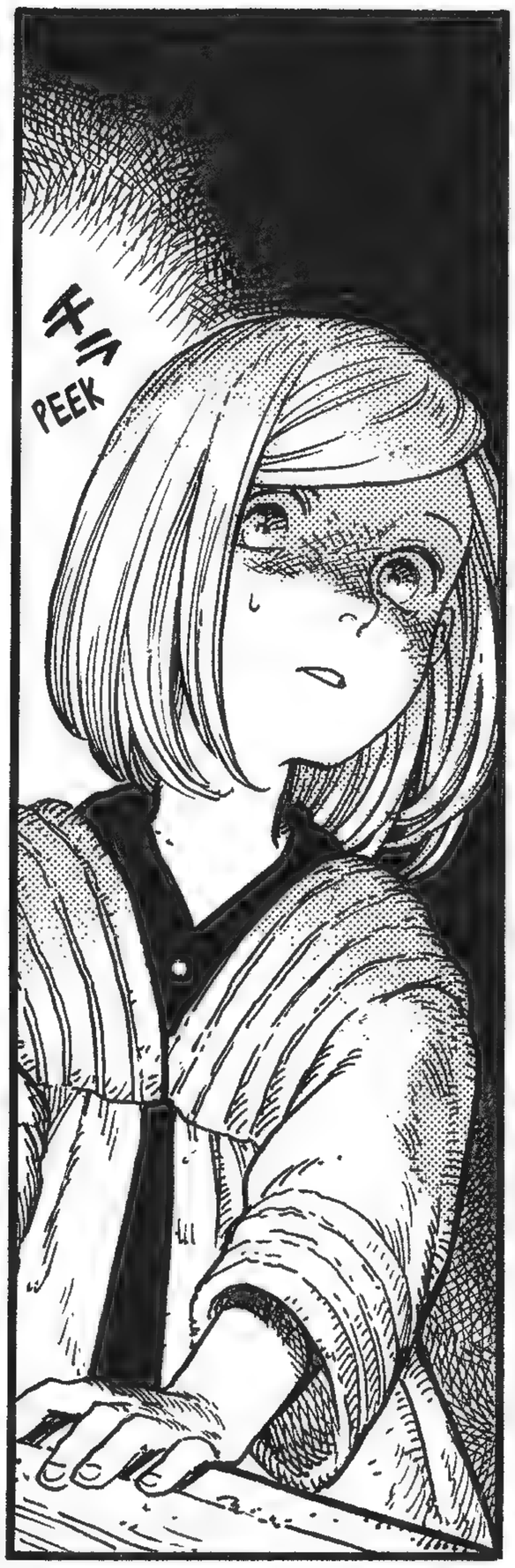
EEEK!

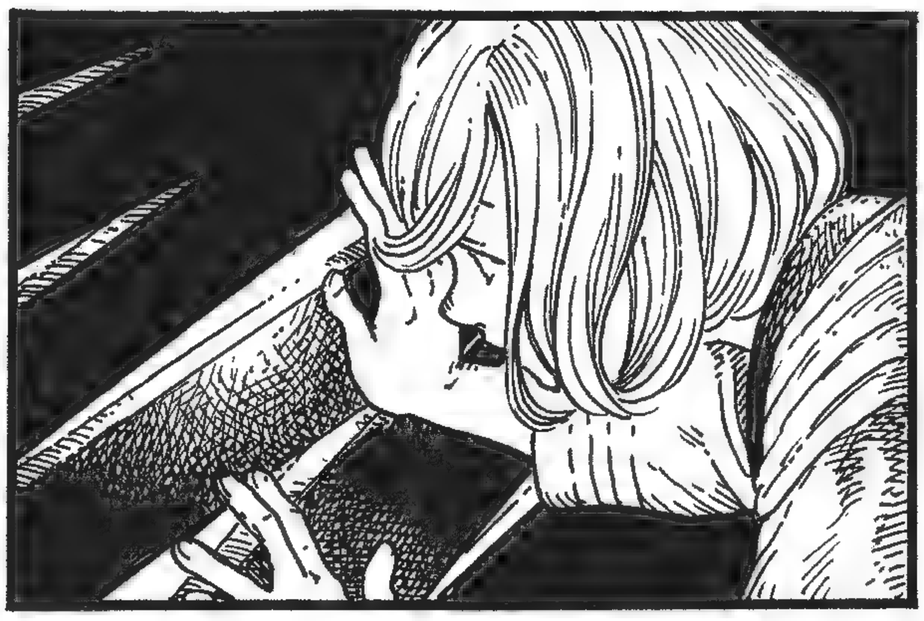
WH-
WHAT'S
GOING
ON...?!

FWOOSH

!!




PEEK



WAIT! I SHOULDN'T!
BUT I...
...REALLY WANT TO SEE...
BUT I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO...

HE'S...
DRAWING.

SO THAT'S HOW IT WORKS...

MAGIC BEING CAST...

...WITH A PEN?!

IT'S DRAWN...!

MAGIC ISN'T CAST WITH WORDS...

HM?

IT'S DONE, COCO. ...YOU STILL THERE?

RAP

RAP

!

NOW THEN...

COCO.

"ドキッ" JOLT

ERM... THANKS FOR THE HARD WORK?

...?

COCO?

IT TOOK OFF!

WELL, LOOK AT THAT!

HEAVENS, TO THINK A DAY WOULD COME WHEN YOU WEREN'T HOPPING UP AND DOWN ABOUT MAGIC...

I-I'M OKAY...

AREN'T YOU EXCITED? YOU COULDN'T STOP CHATTERING ON ABOUT THAT CARRIAGE EARLIER.

FWIP

H-HERE'RE YOUR THINGS! AND THE CLOTH!

OOF!

JUMP

HOPPING UP AND DOWN, HM?

I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THAT BOOK...

...BUT I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE NO SUCH LUCK.

I'LL BE ON MY WAY, THEN.

PERHAPS OUR PATHS WILL CROSS AGAIN SOMEDAY.

WERE YOU WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING?

!

WHEW!

...YOU WERE GONNA SAY YOU WANTED TO GO WITH THAT MAN.

THOUGHT THAT MAYBE...

I'D NEVER DO THAT!

I ALREADY LOST YOUR FATHER TO ILLNESS. I DON'T THINK I COULD BEAR HAVING YOU LEAVE, TOO...

I COULDN'T LEAVE YOU ALL ALONE!

THANKS, COCO. HOW'D I GET SUCH A SWEET GIRL?

I WON'T LEAVE. BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO TRY.

...I'M SORRY, MOM.

ALL THE PATTERNS INSIDE THE PICTURE BOOK...

...AND THE WAND THROWN IN FOR FREE...

THE PEN TIP WAS NO COINCIDENCE.

THE PEN *ITSELF* WAS THE WAND...!

PLIP

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

THIS IS AMAZING! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO DO!

OH MY! OH MY! OH MY!

THWAP THWAP

IT'S MAGIC! *MAGIC! REAL MAGIC!*

BMFF

BMFF

OH MY! OH MY! OH MY! OH MY!

DRAWING! THAT'S BEEN THE SECRET THIS WHOLE TIME!

I JUST USED *MAGIC!*

IT GLOWED! JUST NOW! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

OH MY! OH MY! OH MY! OH MY!

JUST ONE MORE PAGE...

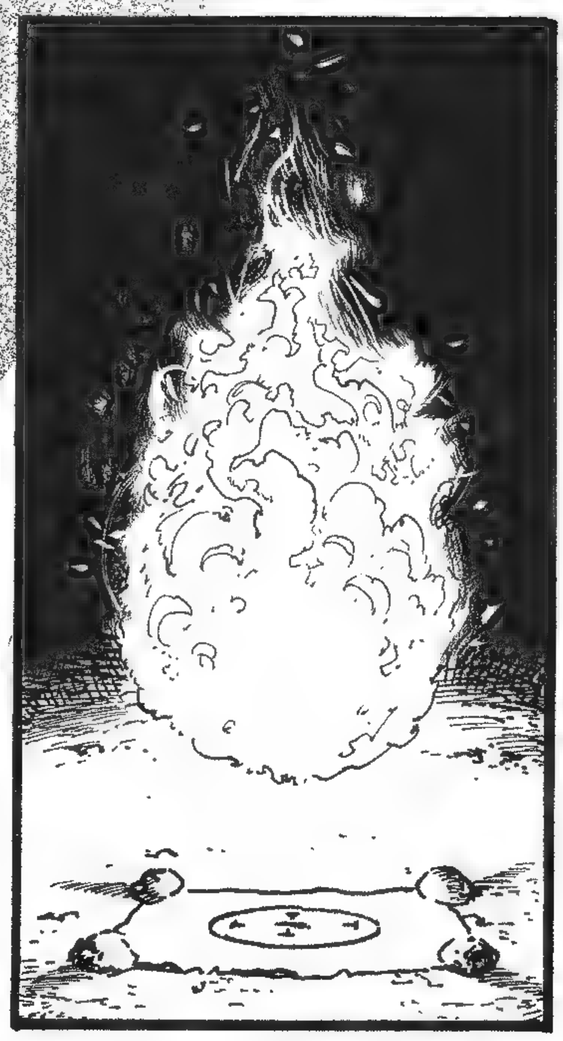
I'LL TRY *ONCE* MORE.

I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO *LOOK*, THOUGH. AM I GONNA GET IN *TROUBLE* IF ANYONE FINDS OUT...?

OOOHHHHH...

I JUST CAN'T GET IT OUT OF MY MIND.

A PICTURE BOOK, HM?



...PERTAINING TO MAGIC TO A CHILD WHO KNOWS NOTHING OF THE ART...

TO SELL SOME-THING...

NO, SURELY IT'S NOT ...?!

STOP! STOP! GO OUT, PLEASE!!

AHHH! THAT ONE WAS A *FIRE* SPELL!!

BWOOF

PHE WWW...

That could've been bad.

I THINK I'M GETTING THE HANG OF THIS!

BUT...

FLAP ぱた

FLAP ぱた

BLEH

...AND NEATLY DRAWN ONES LAST LONGER THAN MESSY ONES!

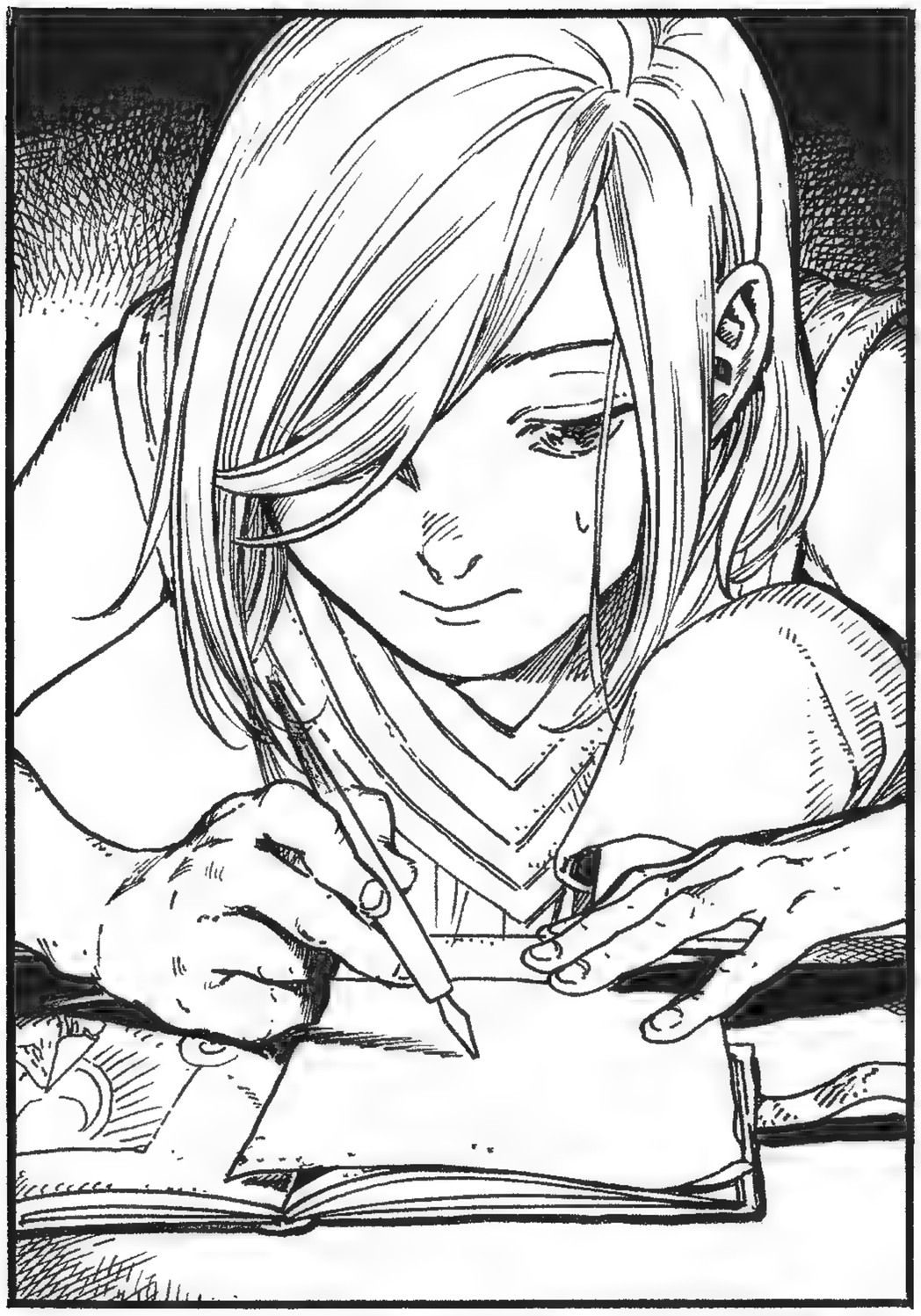
BIG ONES ARE STRONGER THAN LITTLE ONES...

WAIT! THAT'S IT!

BUT IT'S HARD TO DRAW THEM BOTH BIG *AND* NEAT.

THE VISITOR WE HAD TODAY MADE IT LOOK SO EASY...

THWUMP



IF I PUT THE PAPER ON THE BOOK...
...I CAN SEE THROUGH IT AND TRACE THE PATTERN PERFECTLY!
HAH! JUST LIKE I THOUGHT!

THERE!

I WONDER WHAT KIND OF SPELL THIS ONE I—

FLASH

FWAAAAH

PHOOF

SNAP

TMP

TMP

THRUST

ナイト!!

SQUEEZE

...!

WHAT KIND OF MAGIC DID YOU DRAW?!!

WHAT DID YOU DRAW, COCO?!

I JUST TRACED ONE OF THE PATTERNS IN THE BOOK AND...!

I... I DON'T KNOW!

COCO?

THE BOOK!

IS IT STILL INSIDE?

Y...

YEAH!

WAIT! THAT'S...

HOLD STILL!

I DON'T WANT TO DROP YOU!

MOM!

KRKK

COCO!!

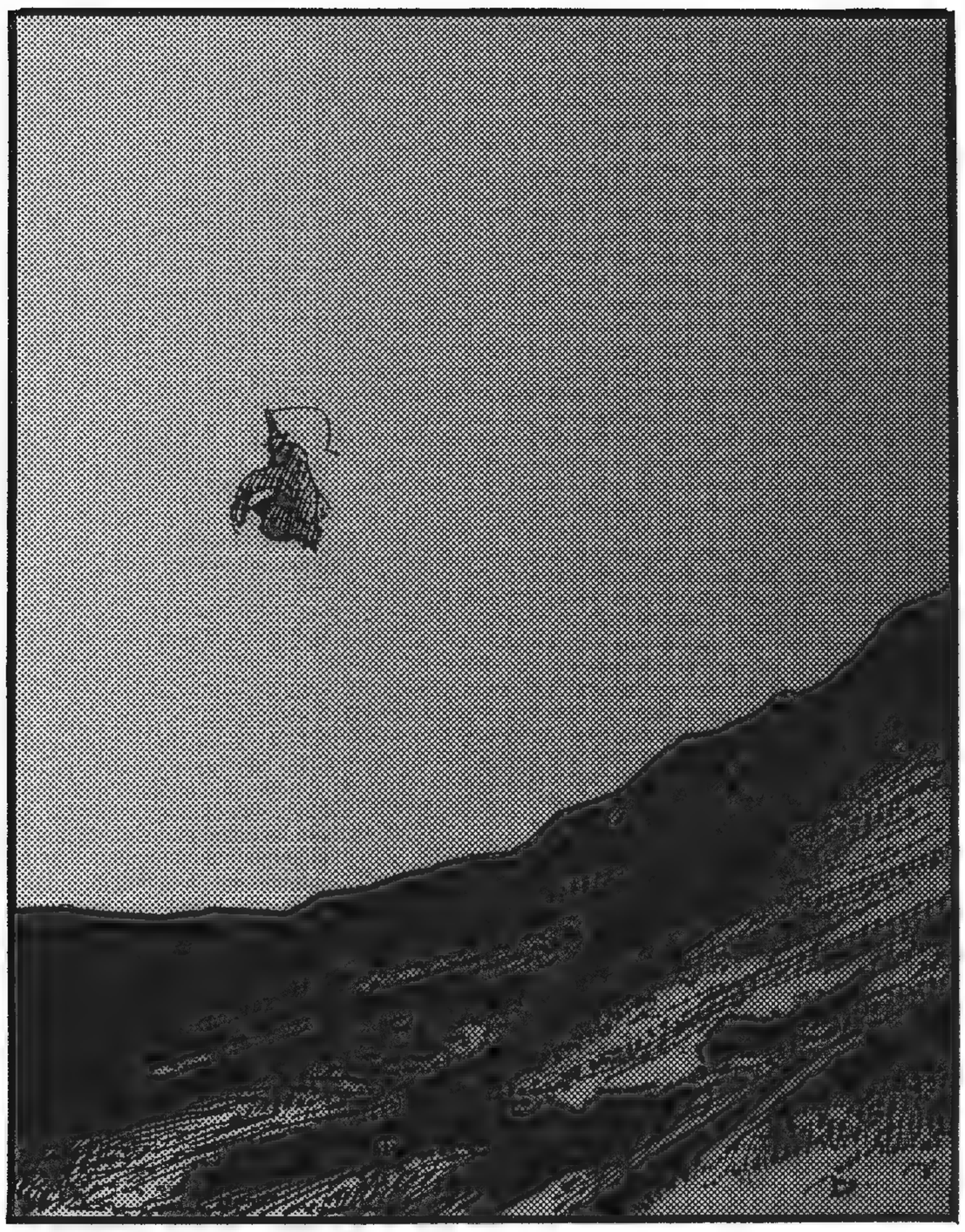
KRRKKKK

?!

KRRKKKK

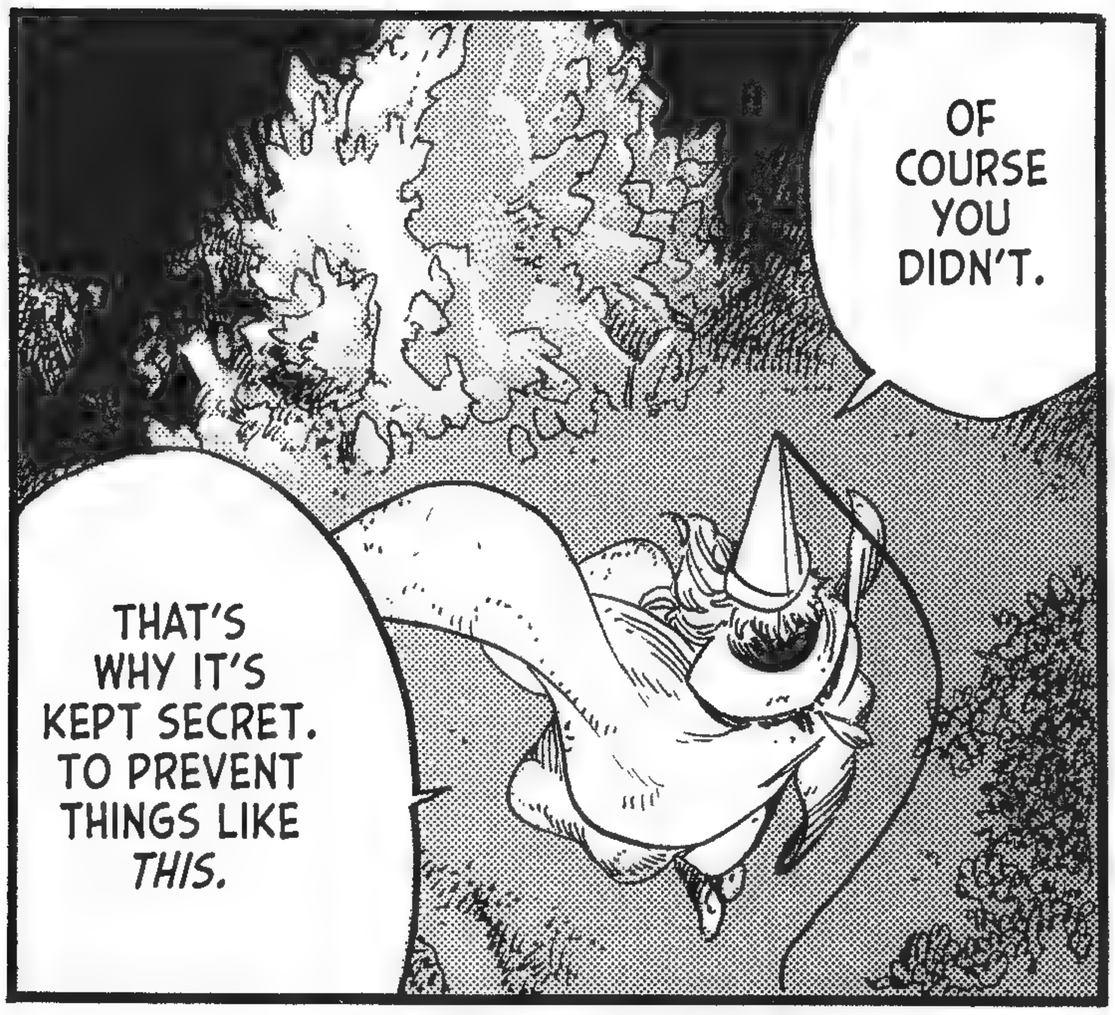
THIS CAN'T BE REAL...

NO...



MOMMY!!

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT...
I... I'M...
I'M SORRY...


OF COURSE YOU DIDN'T.
THAT'S WHY IT'S KEPT SECRET. TO PREVENT THINGS LIKE *THIS*.

THE CONJURING INK... THE PATTERNS ...

FOR THE CASTING SEALS...

THAT'S ALL IT TAKES. WITH THOSE, *ANYONE* CAN USE MAGIC.

HIDING THAT TRUTH IS THE ***ONE GREAT RULE OF WITCHES.***

...MUST HAVE THEIR MEMORIES ERASED.

AND THOSE WHO FIND OUT...

I CAN'T HOLD ON TO YOU LIKE THIS!

NOOO! LET GO! LET GO OF ME!

C-CALM DOWN...!

QUIT TWISTING AROUND!

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

KICK

BFF!

AH H H H!

IF YOU MAKE ME FORGET...

...THEN WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO MY MOM?!

AH H H H!

OF COURSE! THE *BOOK!*

IF YOU'RE ASKING ABOUT THE PICTURE BOOK, I'VE READ IT SO MANY TIMES, I KNOW IT BY HEART!

KICK

KICK

KICK

IF YOU COULD TELL ME WHAT KIND OF SEAL YOU DREW, I MIGHT KNOW HOW TO REVERSE IT, BUT...

...WITH-OUT THAT KNOWLEDGE... OWWW!

AH H H H!

AH H H H!

WOBBLE

SHE'S THE ONLY LEAD I HAVE.

...I CANNOT ALLOW HER TO FORGET.

IF THAT BOOK WAS WRITTEN BY THOSE WHOM I SUSPECT...

GASP!

IF I FOUND ANOTHER COPY FOR YOU...

...AND SHOWED YOU THE SHAPE...

GRRPPHHH!

NNGGHHH!

COULD YOU POINT OUT WHICH PAGE YOU DREW FROM?

YOU COULD IDENTIFY THE BOOK IF YOU SAW IT AGAIN, YES?

IF YOU SAW IT, COULD YOU SAVE MY MOTHER?

THE SAME ONE I DREW...

MISTER QIFREY, PLEASE!

THERE MAY YET BE HOPE.

I'LL DO *ANYTHING!*

ANYTHING TO SAVE HER!!

PLEASE DON'T TAKE MY MEMORIES!

I SWEAR I'LL FIND THE BOOK AGAIN!

ST... STUDY?

AND DO YOU HAVE THE WILL TO STUDY?

YES! I PROMISE!

CAN YOU HONOR THE SECRET?

THAT IS YOUR ONLY OPTION.

...THEN YOU CHOOSE TO STAND ALONGSIDE US.

IF YOU ARE TO RETAIN THE TRUTH YOU HAVE LEARNED...

...FROM NOW ON...

...YOU WILL BE...

COCO...

...A WITCH.

Witch Hat Atelier

FWISH

I HEAR WIND...

MUST BE A BIT CHILLY UP HERE IN JUST YOUR BEDCLOTHES.

DON'T WORRY. WE'LL BE ARRIVING SOON.

SEE? THERE IT IS.

AH, YOU'RE UP. I HAILED US A PASSING CARRIAGE.

MY ATELIER.

AND YOUR NEW PLACE OF STUDY.

Chapter 2

I THOUGHT IT WISE TO STAVE OFF ANY CARELESS VISITORS UNTIL WE DISCOVER THE NATURE OF THAT SPELL.

THE BRANCHES WILL GROW QUICKLY INTO A FORMIDABLE BARRIER.

I'VE STREWN GUARD BRIAR SEEDS AROUND YOUR HOME.

COCO?

I'M AFRAID IT WILL BE SOME TIME...

...BEFORE YOU SEE HOME AGAIN, AND...

I PROMISED HER...

WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?

I...

I PROMISED THAT I'D NEVER LEAVE HER ON HER OWN.

THAT I'D NEVER ABANDON HER.

HERE. RINSE YOUR FACE.

YOU HAD NO WAY TO KNOW.

PLEASE DON'T BLAME YOURSELF.

COCO...

LET OUT ALL THOSE TEARS AND EMBRACE THE FUTURE!

STARTING TODAY, THIS IS YOUR NEW HOME.

?

WATER, OF COURSE.

?

UM... WHAT IS THIS STUFF?

BLUB

AH!

Umm... I don't remember water being this round and... floaty.

HOW COULD I FORGET?!

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T HAVE A *BUCKET* OR SOMETHING?

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO *USE* THIS THING?

HUH?!

I'LL FETCH YOU A CHANGE OF CLOTHES!

MISTER QIFREY...?

WHAT'S THERE TO BE SCARED OF?!

'CAUSE TOUCHING MAGIC I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE...

...KINDA GIVES ME THE *CREEPS* NOW.

IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING TRICKY ABOUT THAT SPELL.

I'M TETIA. WANT ME TO SHOW YOU HOW THAT THING WORKS?

IF YOU TIP THE LOWER TRAY, WATER POURS RIGHT OUT! SEE?

IT'S A SPELL THAT COLLECTS MOISTURE FROM THE AIR INTO WATER WE CAN USE!

IT'S CALLED A VAPOR BUBBLE.

HOP

GLUP GLUP GLUP トトコココ...

HUH?

THANK *YOU!*

WOW! THAT'S INCRED-IBLE!

THANK YOU!

SO THANK *YOU* FOR YOUR THANKS!

I LOVE IT WHEN PEOPLE TELL ME "THANK YOU"!

JUST IGNORE HER...

THIS ISN'T EVER GOING TO STOP, IS IT...?

AND THANK *YOU* AGAIN FOR THANKING *ME!*

OH... UH... I SEE. TH-THANKS...

PUMP

HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT, RICHEH?

I WAS JUST HELPING OUT!

"Just leave her be"...?

IF YOU STOP RESPONDING, EVENTUALLY SHE QUIETS DOWN.

WHEN TETIA GETS EXCITED, JUST LEAVE HER BE.

...HUH?

APPREN-TICES, MORE PRECISELY.

WE'RE STUDENTS OF MASTER QIFREY!

ARE YOU BOTH WITCHES?

SHE'S HOLDING A PEN. AND INK.

ARE THEY FOR CASTING MAGIC...?

SO...
UM...
WHICH ATELIER DO YOU BELONG TO?
HUH?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE OUR AGE.
HUH?
HUH?
WHAT?
HUH?
HUH?
WAIT.
WAIT. DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE *NOT?*
I WAS POSITIVE YOU WERE HERE TO STUDY, JUST LIKE US.
HUH?
HUH?
I MEAN, I ONLY DREW MY FIRST SPELL YESTERDAY...
THIS IS MY NEW HOME, STARTING TODAY.
OH, WELL, I'M NOT EXACTLY AN APPRENTICE YET...
UM...
HUH?

...

I'M THE ONE WHO WHAT...?

DON'T TELL ME...

...YOU'RE THE ONE WHO...

THE ONE FROM THE RUMORS...

THE OUTSIDER WHO DREW FORBIDDEN SPELLS.

THE ONE ALLOWED TO BECOME AN APPRENTICE, MEMORY INTACT.

OH, MISTER QIFREY...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

JOLT

HERE YOU ARE, COCO.

OKAY!

TETIA, RICHEH? COULD YOU LET COCO AND ME SPEAK IN PRIVATE?

AGOTT'S AWAY, I SEE...

LONG AGO, MAGIC WAS JUST ANOTHER ORDINARY PART OF LIFE.

DON'T BE AFRAID.

I'LL EXPLAIN EVERY-THING.

ANYONE, FROM ANY PLACE, COULD CAST...

ALL IT TOOK WAS KNOWLEDGE OF PRESCRIBED DESIGNS...

...AND SPECIALLY CRAFTED INK.

...AND MAGIC WAS FAMILIAR TO ALL.

HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THAT...

...THE WORLD WAS CONSTANTLY EMBROILED IN WAR.

MANY FOUL SPELLS WERE CONCEIVED...

FOR WHEN MAN HAS THE POWER TO DO ANYTHING, THEN ANYTHING HE WILL DO.

...PROMPTING THE FEW GOOD SOULS LEFT IN THE WORLD TO RENOUNCE WAR AND BAND TOGETHER AS THE KEEPERS OF MAGIC.

...AND PASSED ON KNOWLEDGE OF THE ART ONLY TO APPRENTICES WHO COULD BE TRUSTED TO GUARD THE SECRET.

THEY ERASED THE MEMORIES OF MAGIC FROM THE POPULACE...

IF THE TRUTH WERE TO PROLIFER-ATE ONCE MORE...

...OUR WORLD WOULD BE THRUST INTO CHAOS ANEW.

SINCE THE DAY OF THE PACT, WE HAVE SPREAD THE BELIEF...

...THAT MAGIC CAN ONLY BE WIELDED BY THOSE WITH INNATE POWER.

AND THAT IS WHY YOUR CASE SPARKS SUCH GOSSIP.

...I'M SORRY FOR THAT, COCO.

THAT IS WHY WE ARE CAUTIOUS TO KEEP IT HIDDEN.

CLENCH

BUT... THERE'S ONE OTHER THING...

NO. IT'S MY OWN FAULT.

THE FORBIDDEN SPELLS. WHAT ARE THEY...?

THEY ARE SPELLS MEANT TO HURT PEOPLE.

...SPELLS DRAWN DURING THAT AGE OF WAR, SHUT AWAY FROM THE WORLD ON THE DAY OF THE PACT.

CLATTER

I WANT TO KNOW THEM!

SHOW THEM TO ME!

LET ME SEE ALL THE SPELLS THAT...

...MUST NOT BE USED!

I CAN'T GO ON, NOT KNOWING...

...WHAT THEY ARE.

IT'S TOO FRIGHTENING TO BEAR.

COME. LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

NORMALLY, I'D COUNSEL PATIENCE. BUT THAT'S NOT SO EASY IN YOUR CASE.

THE FORBIDDEN SPELLS ARE TOO NUMEROUS TO COUNT.

BUT THEY CAN BE SUMMED UP RATHER SIMPLY.

...IS NOT TO BE CAST AT ANY TIME.

MAGIC THAT DIRECTLY AFFECTS THE HUMAN BODY OR MIND...

TRANSFORMA-TIONS, SPELLS OF AGING OR DE-AGING...

...TELEPORTATION WITHOUT THE USE OF DOORS OR VEHICLES...

...SPELLS TO CONTROL OTHERS' MINDS OR EMOTIONS...

...OR THOSE TO HARM OR EVEN HEAL THE BODY. ALL SUCH SPELLS.

THE SPELL TO MAKE PEOPLE FORGET...?

WITH ONE EXCEPTION.

PRE-CISELY.

WOW...

THINGS LIKE...

...CARRIAGES AND LAMPS.

THUS, MOST MAGIC IS USED TO CREATE MAGICAL TOOLS.

SKETCH

SKETCH

OR WINDOWS ...

...SUCH AS THIS.

WHEN WE ARRIVED HERE, THERE WAS NOTHING BUT HILLS...

THERE'S A LAKE!

DO YOU SEE THE STRUCTURE IN THE DISTANCE?

IT'S A WINDOW-WAY.

IT CONNECTS TO ITS ANALOGUES, OTHER WINDOWS OF THE SAME DESIGN.

THE MOMENT ANY BOOK ON MAGIC IS COMPOSED, IT IS INSTANTLY REPLICATED WITHIN THAT TOWER.

THAT IS THE TOWER OF TOMES. A VAULT OF KNOWLEDGE.

HURRY! TAKE ME! I'LL SEARCH FOR THE BOOK. I WON'T SLEEP UNTIL I FIND IT!

SLOW DOWN, COCO.

SLOSH

...SO THE PICTURE BOOK MUST BE THERE, TOO!

!

VSSSHHH

VSSSHHH

FERSPLSHH

HOW

FOR *THAT*, YOU SEE, IS THE LIBRARIANS' TRIAL.

GRRRKK

?!

IN ORDER TO ENTER THE TOWER, FIRST YOU WILL HAVE TO STUDY.

THE TOWER OF TOMES IS PROTECTED BY FOUR LIBRARIANS.

ONLY WITCHES WHO OVERCOME THE TRIAL ARE PERMITTED INSIDE.

I WAS QUITE DELIGHTED TO HEAR...

...OF YOUR THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE.

IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO FEEL AFRAID.

BUT...

COCO...

GRRRKK

KNOW THAT THOSE SPELLS WHICH ARE NOT FORBIDDEN...

...ARE ALL MEANS TO BRING HAPPINESS TO PEOPLE.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO LEARN...

...THEN WHY NOT KNOW MORE ABOUT THE SPELLS OF KINDNESS?

...I'D LIKE THAT...

...MASTER QIFREY!

BUT PERHAPS YOU AGREE?

JUST A THOUGHT.

FWOOSH

GOOD TO HEAR!

WELL, THEN, LET'S SHOW YOU YOUR NEW QUARTERS.

THOUGH I SUPPOSE WE OUGHT TO TIDY *THIS* UP FIRST.

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW ROOM.

YOUR ROOM-MATE.

WHO'S AGOTT?

IT LOOKS AS THOUGH AGOTT IS STILL AWAY.

BEDROOMS ARE SEPARATE, DOWN THE STAIRS IN BACK.

DON'T WORRY, THE BEDROOM DOORS LOCK.

WORKSPACES ARE SHARED, TWO TO A ROOM.

I HAVE SOME BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO. CALL IF YOU NEED ANYTHING.

NOW, WHY NOT TAKE A MOMENT TO REST UP?

CLICK
カチ CLICK
チ
CLICK チ

THIS IS QIFREY.

FWIP スッ

ゴゴゴゴ
RUMMAGE

NO.

NO PROGRESS YET ON THE BOOK.

SHE'S STILL DISORIENTED, BUT...

...THINGS APPEAR QUITE PROMISING.

YOUR APPROVAL OF THE GIRL'S APPRENTICESHIP IS DEEPLY APPRECIATED.

WE SHOULD BE QUITE PLEASED BY HER EXCITEMENT FOR MAGIC.

INDEED.

IT WOULD BE AN OBSTACLE WERE SHE TO RECOIL.

...WHEN WE MUST HAVE HER FACE THE FORBIDDEN SPELLS.

FOR THE TIME WILL COME...

THAT SIDE IS MINE.

...A WITCH'S ROOM LOOKS.

SO THIS IS HOW...

GET OUT OF THE WAY...

...SO I CAN LAND.

I'M COCO...

YOU MUST BE AGOTT, RIGHT?

I KNOW.

TMP

OH! SORRY!

I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE A NEW APPRENTICE HERE.

THE OUTSIDER EVERYONE'S ON ABOUT.

THANKS TO *YOU*...

TH... THAN—

SUCH A SHAME ABOUT YOUR MOTHER.

!

...SHE'LL NEVER BE FLESH AND BLOOD AGAIN.

...!

THRUST

YOU KNOW NOTHING.

TO LEARN TO USE MAGIC AND—

I CAME HERE TO *HELP* HER.

CLENCH ギュっ

I PASSED THE TEST TO BECOME A STUDENT OF MAGIC...

...AND WAITED TO BE CHOSEN FOR AN APPRENTICE-SHIP.

I'VE BEEN PRACTICING THE SEALS EVER SINCE I COULD WRITE. I WEAR THESE STAINS WITH PRIDE.

...SIMPLY DOESN'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES.

AN IGNORANT OUTSIDER LIKE YOU...

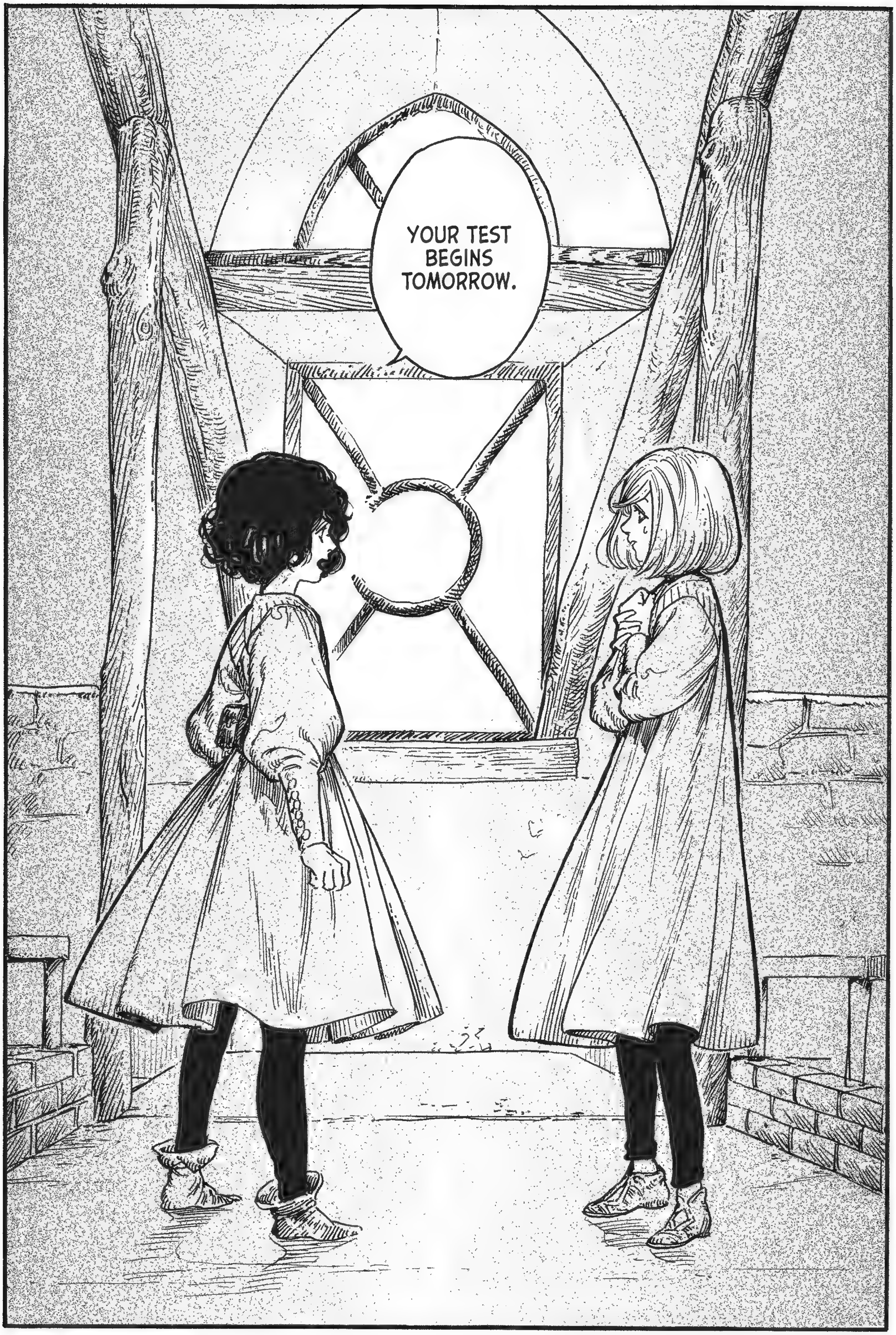
I AT LEAST HAVE TO TRY!

I'VE ALREADY MANAGED TO DRAW IT ONCE!

BUT I...

THEN...

...PROVE YOURSELF.


YOUR TEST BEGINS TOMORROW.

Witch Hat Atelier

Chapter 3

KHOOO

SORRY. JUST FIN-ISHED.

YOU DONE IN THERE YET?

COCO? KNOCK KNOCK

IT JUST DISAP-PEARED INTO THE VOID...

IT...

HEY, TETIA...

ARE ALL MAGICAL WASHROOMS LIKE THAT?

MORN-ING...

COCO.

GOOD MORNING.

CON...

TRAP-TIONS?

YEAH, I GUESS MOST CONTRAPTIONS ARE FOUND IN BIG CITIES...

...NOBODY'S HOUSE HAD ANYTHING LIKE *THAT*.

THERE WAS A MAGIC SPRING NEAR MY VILLAGE, BUT...

...OKAY.

UM... SORRY. I'M KINDA BUSY...

COULD YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT WHAT KIND OF STUFF THERE IS?

BUT I'VE GOT A BOOK YOU CAN BORROW!

PWFF

"TOOLS ENCHANTED WITH MAGIC..."

"...ARE KNOWN AS CONTRAP-TIONS."

THEY CAN ONLY BE CREATED BY WITCHES AND THEREFORE COMMAND HIGH PRICES.

SUCH ITEMS ARE PRIZED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AS THEY CAN BE USED EVEN BY THOSE WHO DO NOT PRACTICE MAGIC.

THE... TEST?

"THE CRAFTING OF CONTRAPTIONS BEFORE ONE HAS TAKEN THE TEST AND BECOME AN APPRENTICE IS FORBIDDEN."

SHE SAID THERE'S A TEST BEFORE YOU CAN BECOME AN APPRENTICE...

IS THIS WHAT AGOTT WAS TALKING ABOUT?

EEEP!

DETAILS ABOUT HOW WHAT'S TAKEN?

SLAM

BUT IT DOESN'T GIVE ANY DETAILS ABOUT *HOW* IT'S TAKEN...

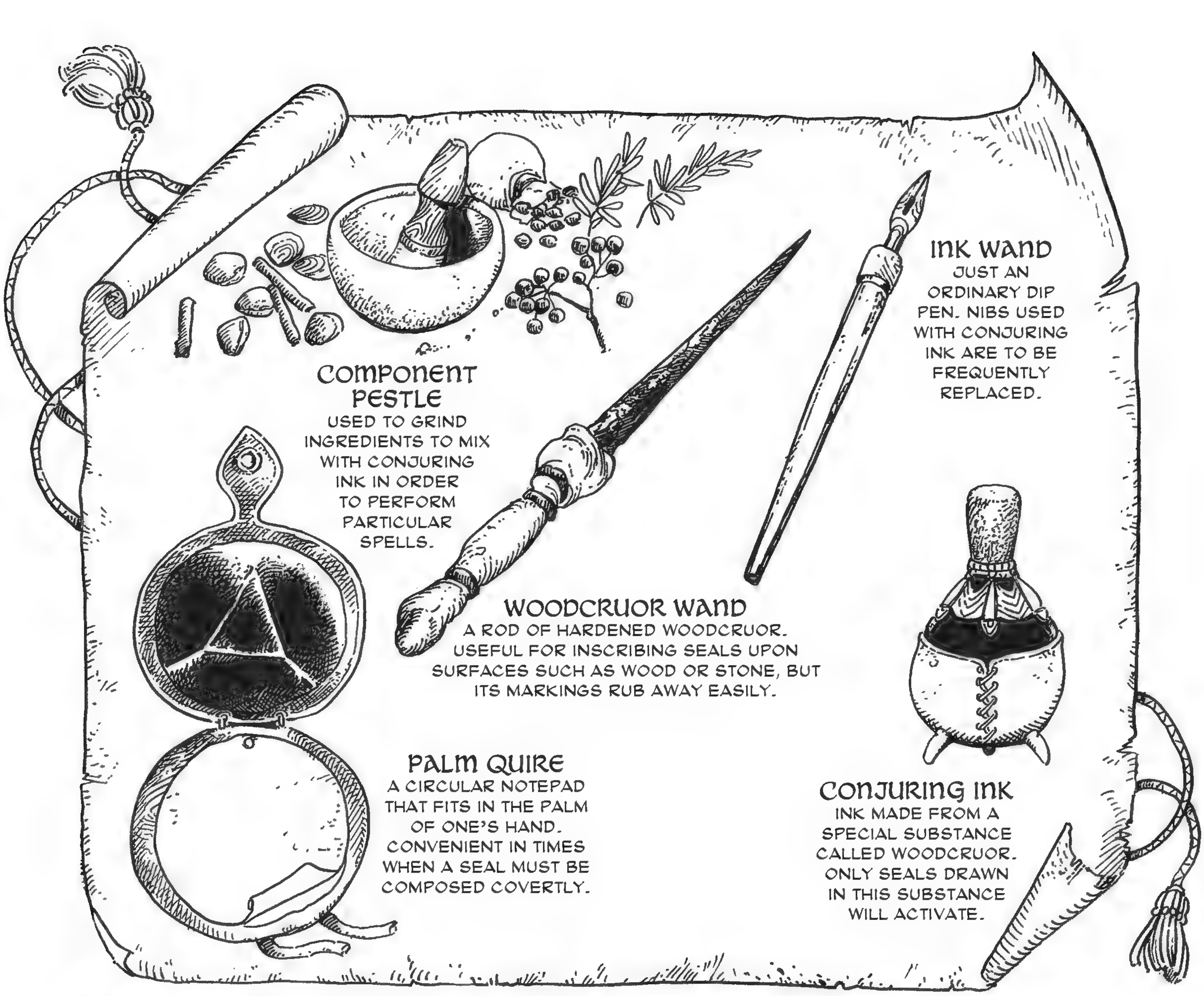
WHAT ARE THESE ...?

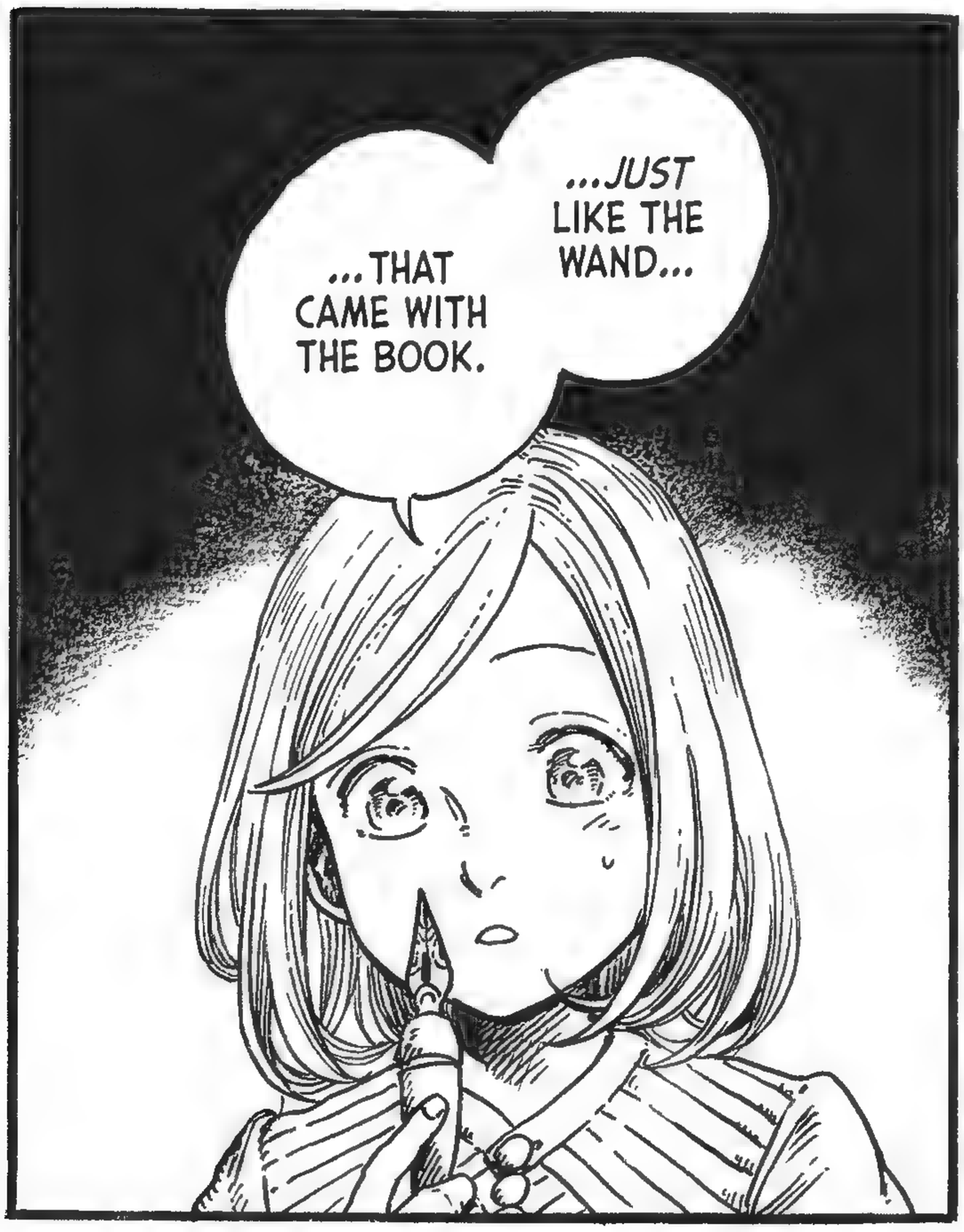
THE BEST WAY TO STUDY IS NOT BY READING BUT BY *DOING!*

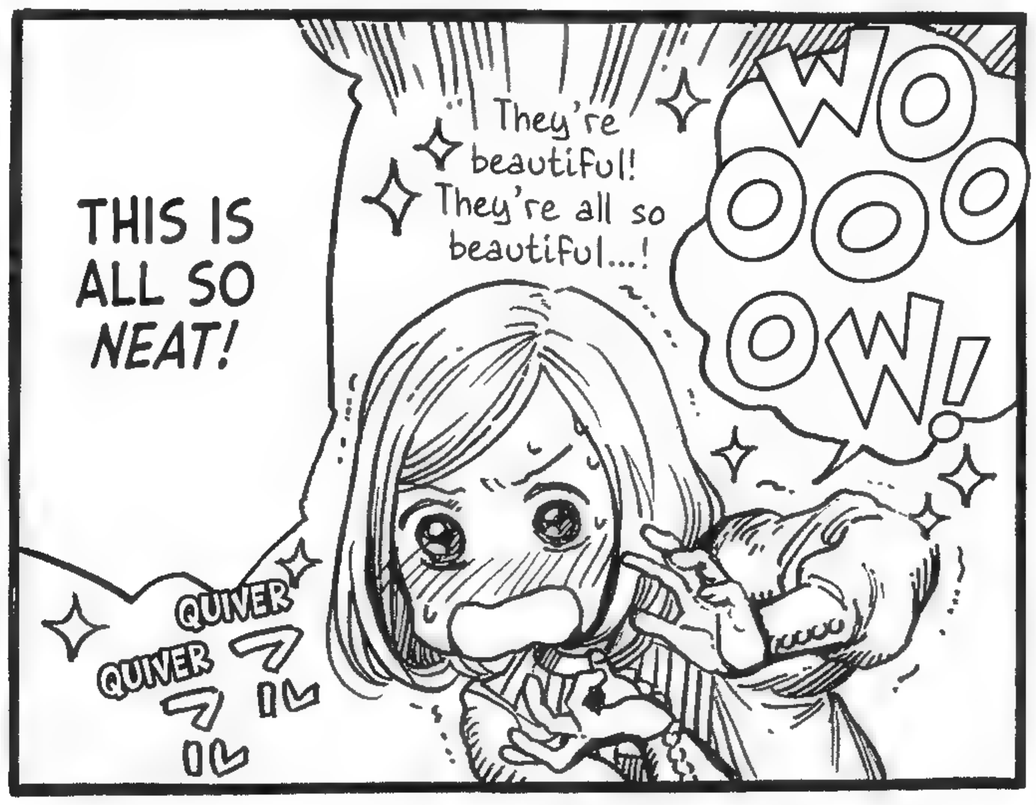
THERE ARE MANY ASPECTS OF MAGIC NOT RECORDED IN BOOKS.

...AND TOOLS FOR CASTING.

THEY'RE YOUR COMPO-NENTS...


COMPONENT PESTLE
USED TO GRIND INGREDIENTS TO MIX WITH CONJURING INK IN ORDER TO PERFORM PARTICULAR SPELLS.
INK WAND
JUST AN ORDINARY DIP PEN. NIBS USED WITH CONJURING INK ARE TO BE FREQUENTLY REPLACED.
WOODCRUOR WAND
A ROD OF HARDENED WOODCRUOR. USEFUL FOR INSCRIBING SEALS UPON SURFACES SUCH AS WOOD OR STONE, BUT ITS MARKINGS RUB AWAY EASILY.
PALM QUIRE
A CIRCULAR NOTEPAD THAT FITS IN THE PALM OF ONE'S HAND. CONVENIENT IN TIMES WHEN A SEAL MUST BE COMPOSED COVERTLY.
CONJURING INK
INK MADE FROM A SPECIAL SUBSTANCE CALLED WOODCRUOR. ONLY SEALS DRAWN IN THIS SUBSTANCE WILL ACTIVATE.


...THAT CAME WITH THE BOOK.
...JUST LIKE THE WAND...


THIS IS ALL SO NEAT!
They're beautiful! They're all so beautiful...!
WOOOOOW!
QUIVER
QUIVER
IL
IL

HEY, IT REALLY IS...

...WANTED ME TO USE THE FORBIDDEN SPELLS...

IT'S AS IF THAT WITCH I MET AT THE FESTIVAL...

I STILL FEEL KIND OF UNEASY ABOUT IT ALL...

BUT...

WELL, THEN...

COCO...

...SHALL WE BEGIN?

I HAVE TO GET MOM BACK TO NORMAL!

Y...

YES, PLEASE!

HALF A CLOCK MARK LATER

SLUMP

hnnn

First, one fashions the Sigils and Signs on the Contraption, using Woodcruor sourced from the Silverwood Grove of Zozah, and then...

...IN A SEA OF NEW WORDS...

I WAS ABOUT TO DROWN...

IT JUST FELT LIKE...

UMMMooo?

SHALL WE TAKE A BREAK?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, COCO?

WOBBLE

no.

I...I'M FINE.

no.

WOBBLE

AH, FORGIVE ME... I'VE NEVER GIVEN LESSONS TO A CHILD WHO HASN'T LEARNED THE FUNDAMENTALS...

LET'S TRY THIS. COULD YOU REPEAT BACK TO ME THE THINGS YOU'VE UNDERSTOOD SO FAR?

COCO?

YES!!

O-OKAY...

UM...

A "SIGIL" IN THE CENTER...

...SURROUNDED BY MARKINGS CALLED "SIGNS"...

...AND AN OUTER "RING" THAT COMPLETES THE SEAL.

What else...

Um...

AND, UH...

SPELLS ARE COMPOSED OF THREE ELEMENTS...

Sigil of Light

Sigil of Wind

THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SIGILS, LIKE FOR FIRE, WATER, LIGHT, AND WIND... AND THAT DETERMINES THE TYPE OF SPELL...

Sigil of Fire

Sigil of Water

THE SIGNS DETERMINE WHAT FORM THE SPELL WILL TAKE, AS WELL AS ITS SIZE AND DIRECTION.

Sign of Levitation

Sign of Columns

Sign of Dispersion

BUT YOU DID A MARVELOUS JOB!

TEETER

THAT TOOK EVERYTHING I HAD...

TOTTER

AND ONCE THE OUTER RING IS COMPLETED, THE SEAL IS FIXED...

...AND THE SPELL ACTIVATES!

UNDER-STANDING OPENS THE WAY TO MASTERY...

...AND MASTERY OPENS THE WAY...

SKETCH

SKETCH

THINGS MERELY HEARD AND READ ARE QUICKLY LOST...

...BUT THINGS UNDERSTOOD AND SPOKEN ALOUD REMAIN CLEARLY ETCHED IN MIND.

...TO FEATS SUCH AS THIS.

...

FIDGET FIDGET

SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE

?!

CRUMPLE

SPLENDID! THAT'S THE SPIRIT!!

I WANNA TRY, TOO!

I...

HMF HMF

I CAN'T SHOW YOU MINE RIGHT AFTER YOU SHARED THAT GORGEOUS FLOWER MADE OF WATER!

IT'S SO BAD, *AND*...

...THE LINES ARE ALL WOBBLY AND JUMBLY, AND...

SNATCH

NO! DON'T THROW IT AWAY!

No! No!

You can't look at that!

NOOO!

GIVE IT BACK!!

THE SPELL CAN'T ACTIVATE UNTIL THE RING IS WHOLE.

LOOK HERE. THE RING'S NOT CONNECTED.

OF COURSE THEY ARE. YOU'RE STILL LEARNING.

AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE STILL HAVE SOME MORE BASIC ISSUES.

SOON YOU'LL BE FULL OF CONFIDENCE, BOUNDING AS YOU PLEASE.

EVERYONE'S UNSTEADY WHEN FIRST USING A NEW TOOL.

JUST AS A NEWBORN FOAL FALTERS AS IT LEARNS TO STAND.

PSHAHH

NOW, LET'S JOIN THOSE ENDS...

...AND SEE WHAT MAGIC RESUL—

ぷしゃあ!!

SMEE EAAAR

EEEE

EEEP

SPIN

SPIN

SPIN

SPIN

SPIN

S...

SORRY! I'M SO SORRY!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO...

CALM DOWN, COCO!

WE'RE SORRY, AGOTT... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

HERE! I'LL DRY IT OFF, OKAY?!!

FWAP

I'm so sorry!

FWAP

FWAP

DRIP

DRIP

PERHAPS I COULD TAKE A LOOK AT COCO'S SEAL?

TMP

TMP

TMP

OH... SURE.

IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME.

IT'S FINE, MASTER...

AH... HERE'S THE PROBLEM.

LOOK.

THIS ONE SIGN IS LONGER THAN THE REST.

IT'S APPLYING TOO MUCH PRESSURE, CAUSING THE WATER TO SPURT OUT TO THE SIDE.

I THINK COCO WILL DO QUITE WELL IN YOUR HANDS.

YES...

YOUR OBSERVATIONS ARE SPOT ON, AGOTT.

ASTUTE AS ALWAYS!

Here's a towel for you.

AGOTT, PLEASE LOOK AFTER COCO WHILE I'M GONE.

I'LL BE AWAY FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS VISITING THE GREAT HALL.

HUH?!

B-BUT MASTER ...

WAIT! HOLD ON, PLEASE! I DON'T—

TMP TMP AA

THERE IS MUCH YOU CAN LEARN FROM YOUR PEERS, COCO.

WATCH THEM CLOSELY. STUDY THEIR TECHNIQUE.

TIPTOE

AND ANYWAY...

I SAID IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME.

STOP APOLO-GIZING.

UM... I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT. I...

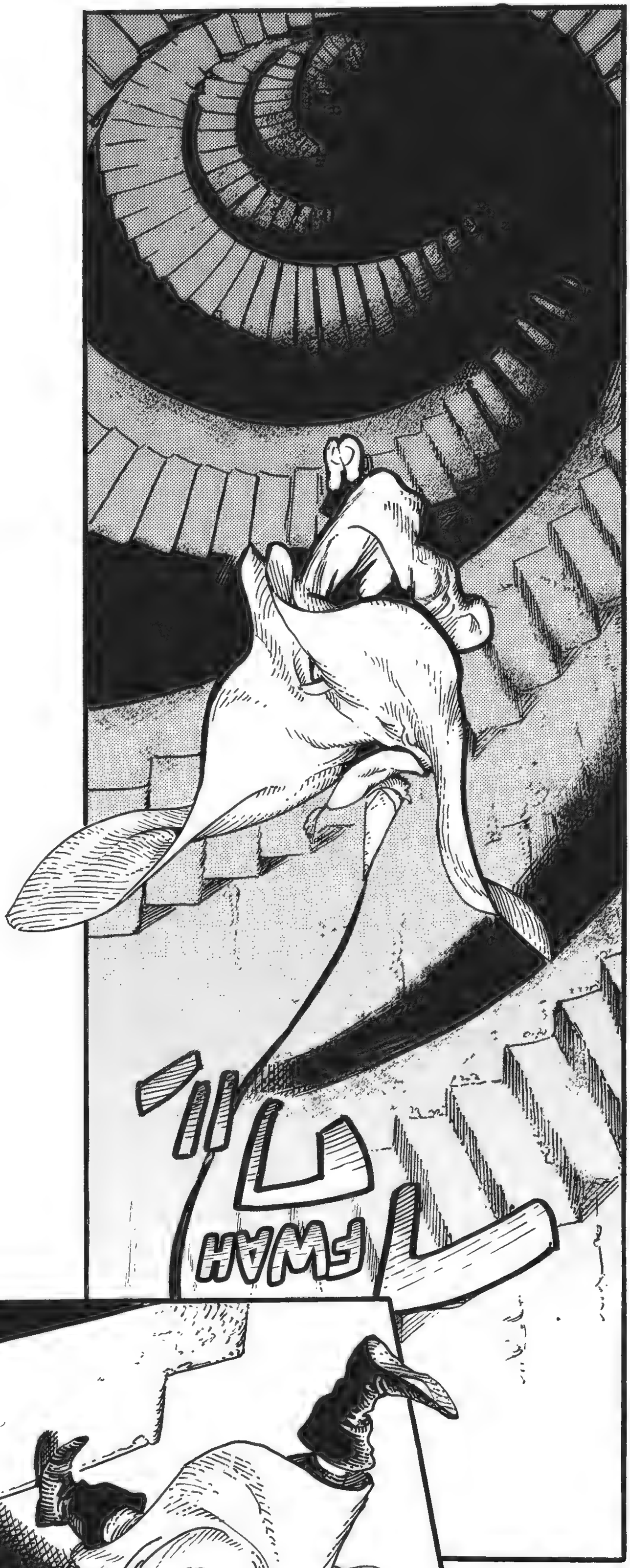
I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR YOU TO DELVE INTO MORE *SERIOUS* STUDY.

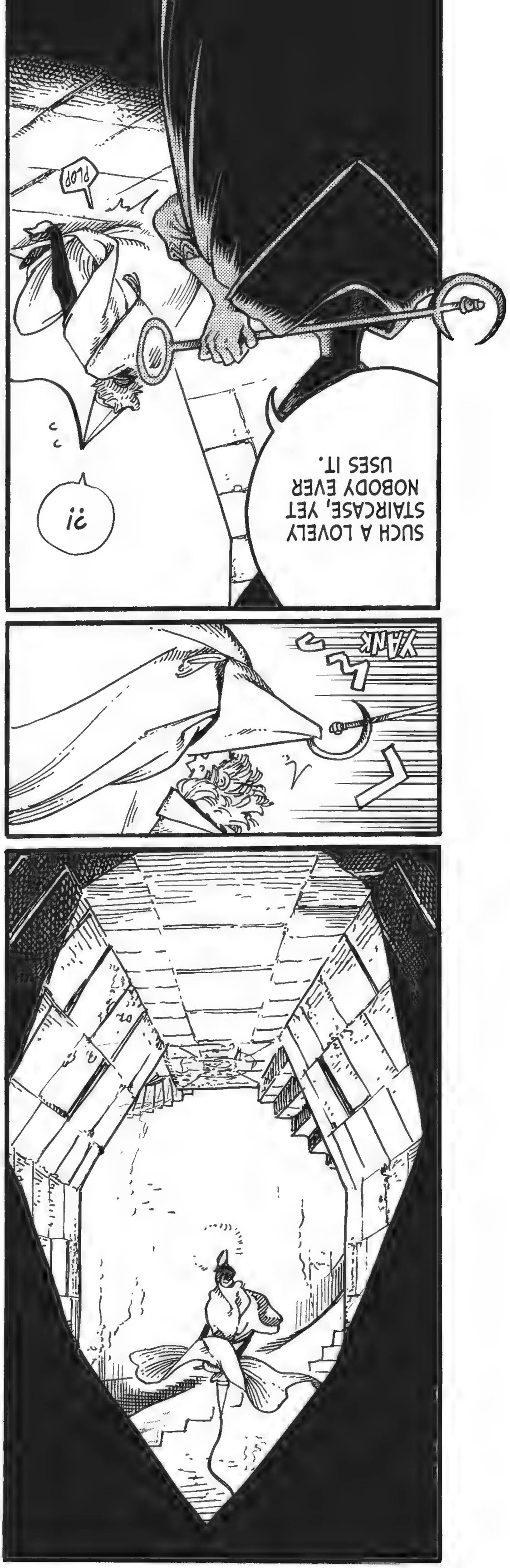
HUH ...?

ALREADY?!

YOUR TEST STARTS NOW.

KRSPLSHH
SPLASH
KRSPLSHH
SPLASH
SPLASH
KRSPLSHH


FWAH


PLOP
SUCH A LOVELY STAIRCASE, YET NOBODY EVER USES IT.
?!
YANK

...YOUNG DISSIDENT OF THE GREAT HALL.

IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE YOU LAST SET FOOT ON THE SEABED...

DAYS LONG PAST, ALAIRA.

AND FLEET IT SHOULD BE, IF IT CONCERNS...

SO YOU'VE HEARD. NOTHING SO FLEET AS A RUMOR, IS THERE?

ARE THEY...?

WORD IS YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING UNTHINKABLE YET AGAIN.

AND YOU HAVE A NEW APPRENTICE TO SHOW FOR IT!

...THOSE OF THE BRIMMED CAPS.

...

THAT'S NOT WHY I MADE MY REQUEST.

!

FIRST TIME WE'VE SEEN FORBIDDEN MAGIC IN FOUR YEARS.

SHE'S A LEAD, AND A FIRM ONE... I'D WANT TO KEEP HER CLOSE, TOO.

IT'S TOO SOON FOR HER. AND THE SEASON...

STILL?! WHAT STAYS YOU?

BESIDES, HER APPRENTICE-SHIP IS NOT YET FORMAL. THE FIRST TEST AWAITS.

PRECISELY. AT ITS *HIGHEST* ALTITUDE OF THE YEAR.

AH, OF COURSE... RIGHT NOW, THE DADAH RANGE MUST BE...

HER VERY LIFE WOULD BE AT RISK.

I CAN'T HAVE HER TAKE IT NOW.

UM...

MASTER QIFREY'S AWAY, AND...

IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE. YOU TEST ALONE.

...SURE ABOUT THIS, AGOTT?

ARE YOU...

OH...

I PASSED WHEN I WAS TEN.

EVERYONE TAKES IT TO BECOME AN APPRENTICE. THE CONDITIONS NEVER CHANGE.

BUT... I JUST GOT HERE YESTERDAY.

YOU MUST REACH THE HIGHEST PEAK OF THE DADAH RANGE WITHOUT ANYONE'S AID, AND PICK OF THE DIADEM HERB THAT FLOURISHES THERE.

THE FIRST TEST IS THE "CONSENT OF THE CROWN."

YOU'RE ALLOWED TO TAKE YOUR COMPONENTS AND THREE CONTRAPTIONS. THAT'S IT.

THAT ONE USES *VERY* PRECISE MAGIC. YOU CAN'T JUST PICK IT UP AND MOVE IT AROUND.

HUH?! SO... I COULD TAKE THE *TOILET* IF I WANTED?!

THE ONE WHERE YOU CAN SEE THE UNIVERSE...?!

THE THREE CHOSEN TOOLS MUST COME FROM YOUR OWN ABODE AND BE WITHIN YOUR OWN CAPACITY TO USE.

...A PAIR OF THOSE SHOES?

UM... WHAT ABOUT...

WHAT SHOES?

I IMAGINE THAT'S THE EXTENT OF WHAT YOU CAN HANDLE.

WE'VE GOT A GUIDANCE ORB THAT SHOWS THE WAY TO ANY DESTINATION, AND THE VAPOR BUBBLE FOR DRINKING WATER.

FIDGET
FIDGET
FIDGET
FIDGET
FIDGET
FIDGET
FIDGET
SO...
...IF IT'S NOT A BOTHER, MAYBE YOU COULD...
I SAW THE SOLES GLOWING WHEN YOU AND MASTER QIFREY WERE FLYING AROUND.
THEY'RE CONTRAP-TIONS, TOO, AREN'T THEY?
...!
FIII
I DUNNO, LEND THEM TO ME, OR...
IIDGE
W...
HERE.
!
SORRY, YOU'RE RIGHT! IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR!!
FORGET I ASKED!!

WHUMP

NOW HURRY UP AND GET ON WITH IT.

FLING

OH...! THANK Y—

YOU CAN BORROW THEM.

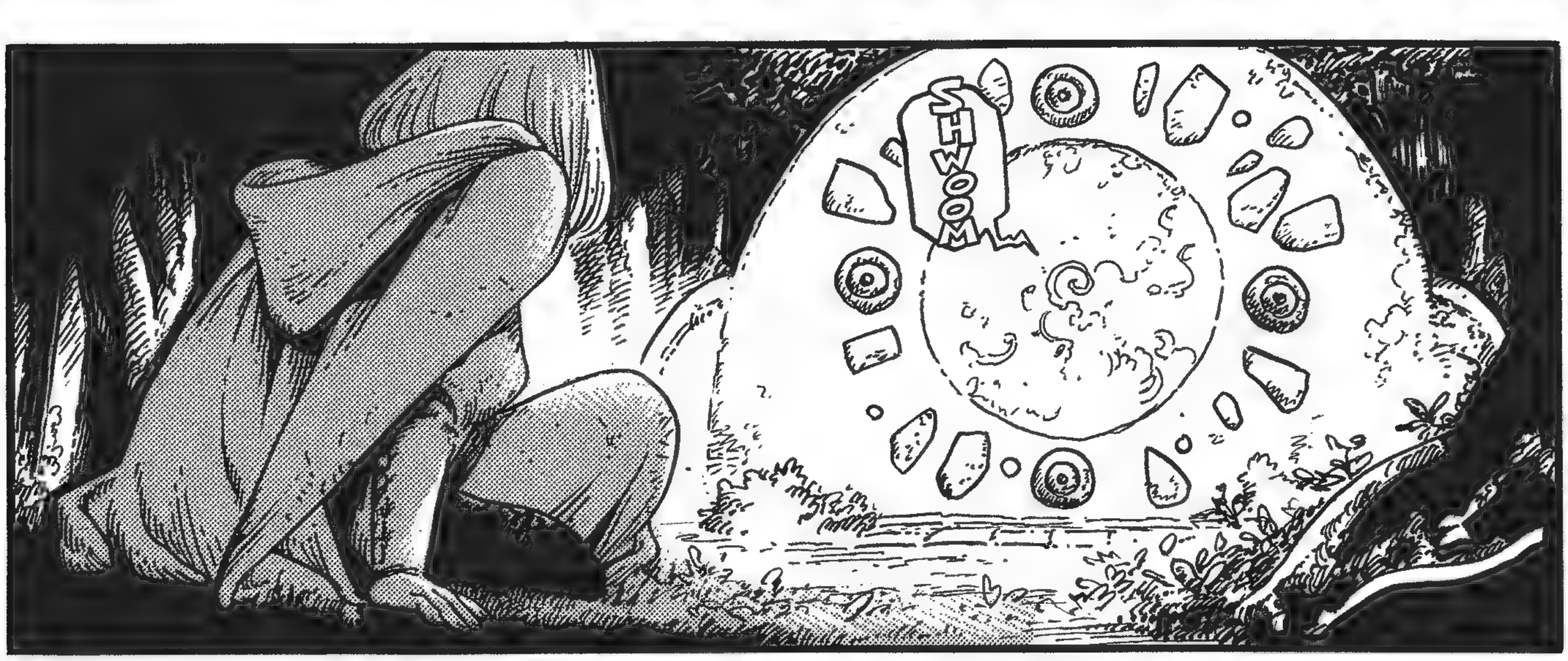
SHOVE

SHOVE

YOU ONLY GET ONE CHANCE TO TAKE THIS TEST.

OH. I ALMOST FORGOT TO TELL YOU...

YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THE ATELIER.
IF YOU FAIL, YOU CAN'T BE APPROVED AS MASTER QIFREY'S APPRENTICE.


SHWOOM

BUT I HAVE TO TRY.

THERE'S NO GOING BACK NOW!

...I'M FEELING A LOT LESS CONFIDENT AGAIN.

CLUTCH

RUSTLE

TINK

TINK

...THEN IT MUST BE A PIECE OF CA—

TINK

TINK

...TO GO THIS WAY.

THE GUIDANCE ORB SAYS...

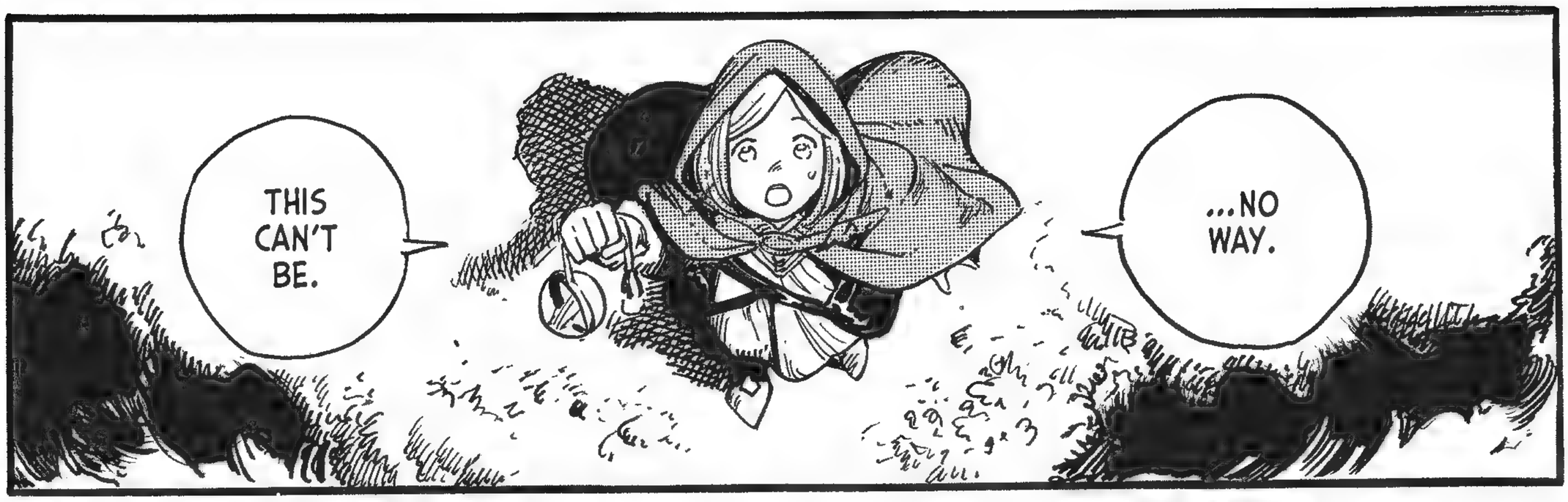
IF EVEN A *10-YEAR-OLD* CAN MAKE IT...

FWING

FWING

ALL RIGHT. IT'S JUST SOME CLIMBING. NO BIG DEAL!

I CAN DO THIS!



CHAPTER 3 ♦ END

Witch Hat Atelier

IN ORDER TO BECOME AN APPRENTICE, I HAVE TO PICK THE DIADEM HERB...

...WHICH GROWS AT THE TOP OF THE DADAH RANGE.

BUT WAIT, I'VE GOT MY CONTRAP-TIONS!

TINK

TINK ?

?

SO THAT'S REALLY IT...

I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WOULD BE *FLOATING* IN MIDAIR...

THE GUIDANCE ORB'S POINTING UPWARD.

TINK コッ

TINK コッ

Chapter 4

THE SHOES I BORROWED FROM AGOTT!

TA-DAH!

SO I HAVE TO PUT THEM PERFECTLY TOGETHER...

HALF OF THE SEAL'S ON THE LEFT FOOT, AND HALF ON THE RIGHT.

WHOA!

TREMBLE おそる

TREMBLE おそる

I AM LIKE A NEWBORN FOAL...

MASTER QIFREY WAS RIGHT.

I'M ACTUALLY *FLOATING!*

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

OH MY GOSH!

WOW! THIS IS AMAZING!

WHIP

EEP!

WOBBLE

WHOA!

WAIT!

WOBBLE

"SOON YOU'LL BE FULL OF CONFI-DENCE."

THINK POSITIVE ...

TEETER

TOTTER

THINK POSITIVE ...

...

TEETER

TOTTER

RUSTLE

BUT IF I CAN FLY, REACHING THE PEAK WILL BE A BREEZE.

OKAY. TIME TO FIGURE THIS OUT!

ALL RIGHT! I THINK MY BALANCE IS GETTING BETTER!

WOBBLE

WOBBLE

TIME TO TRY GOING A LITTLE HIGHER...

AHH!

EEP!

WHOA!

LURCH

DANGLE

PWEE!

AHHHHHH!!

FLUMP

EEEE-EEK!

...

KER-

SPLASH

!

PWEE!

BRUSHBUDDY
SMALL CREATURES COVERED IN FUR NOT UNLIKE THE SOFT BRISTLES OF A WRITING BRUSH. ATTRACTED TO THE SCENT OF CONJURING INK, NEAR WHICH THEY ARE PRONE TO GATHER.

IT MUST BE DRAWN TO THE MAGIC I'M USING!

IT'S A BRUSH-BUDDY! I'D NEVER SEEN ONE BEFORE!

AWW... NOW MY SHOES ARE ALL MUDDY-DUDDY...

HAAAAAH...

SCRUB

SCRUB

SCRUB

SCRUB

SCRUB

ぽちゃん
SPLISH

SQLCH

EEEEEP!

RUMMAGE

NO! IS IT BECAUSE I WIPED IT?!

THIS IS *NOT* GOOD! OKAY, OKAY. I'LL JUST TRACE OVER IT...

RUMMAGE

THE SEAL'S RUBBED OFF!

HUH?!

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN FIX THIS.

This is really bad.

THE INK...

It's leaked over every-thing.

Oh nooo. I don't believe this.

PWEE...

IS IT OVER FOR ME...?

WHAT AM I GONNA DO...?

KRSPLSHH

KRSPLSHH

IT'LL BE JUST A MOMENT.

HERE'S THE APPLICATION FORM.

THANK YOU.

IT'S THE CENTER OF OUR WORLD.

WITH ACCESS TO EVERYTHING A WITCH COULD EVER NEED.

ROOM ENOUGH FOR YOUR APPRENTICES, TOO.

IF YOU LIVED HERE AT THE HALL, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO TRAVEL FOR THINGS LIKE THIS...

SORRY FOR THE WAIT.

HERE YOU ARE.

THMP

NO TROUBLE AT ALL.

THEN I'LL COME...

...WHEN THERE'S SOMETHING I *NEED.*

RUB

...AT LEAST KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON YOUR APPRENTICES.

WELL, IF YOU INSIST ON LIVING IN THAT BACKWOODS ATELIER...

...YOUR DISDAIN FOR THE HALL RUNS DEEP.

HUH?

...THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT GOES ON WHEN THE CAT'S AWAY.

FOR LITTLE MICE OF THAT AGE...

SHE'S AT THE DADAH RANGE, TAKING THE TEST.

YOU WON'T FIND COCO AROUND HERE.

HAVE YOU SEEN COCO?

HEY, AGOTT...

...WHEN I KNOCK ON HER DOOR.

THINK SHE'S ASLEEP?

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR DINNER, BUT THERE'S NO ANSWER...

SHE'S JUST BARELY MOVED IN! WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HER?!

ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

SHE'S THERE BY *HERSELF* ?!

HUH?!!

CRACKLE

TH... THAT'S TRUE, BUT...

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO TAKE IT *BEFORE* YOU MOVE IN.

IF SHE CAN'T PASS A TEST THAT EASY...

...SHE'S NOT FIT TO BE AN APPRENTICE.

THERE'S NOTHING TO GAIN SPENDING TIME...

...WITH SOMEONE BENEATH ME. *ESPECIALLY* AN OUT-SIDER.

I WON'T TOLERATE ANYONE WHO CAN'T KEEP UP WITH ME.

SHE'S OBLIVIOUS. NO SENSE OF DANGER. NO GRASP OF HOW THINGS WORK.

STOP WORRYING. SHE'LL COME RIGHT BACK WITHOUT EVEN TRYING.

...

THE RANGE IS SATURATED WITH MOISTURE. IT'S AS HIGH AS IT GETS ALL YEAR.

NOT EVEN SYLPH SHOES CAN MAKE IT TO THE TOP.

SHE SHOULDN'T BE A PART OF OUR WORLD.

KRSHH

I WILL, BUT...

NGH-HHHH ...

MUNCH MUNCH もぐ もぐ

AREN'T YOU GONNA EAT?

もやんもや〜ん UNGHH UNGHH

AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO'S WORRIED ...?!!

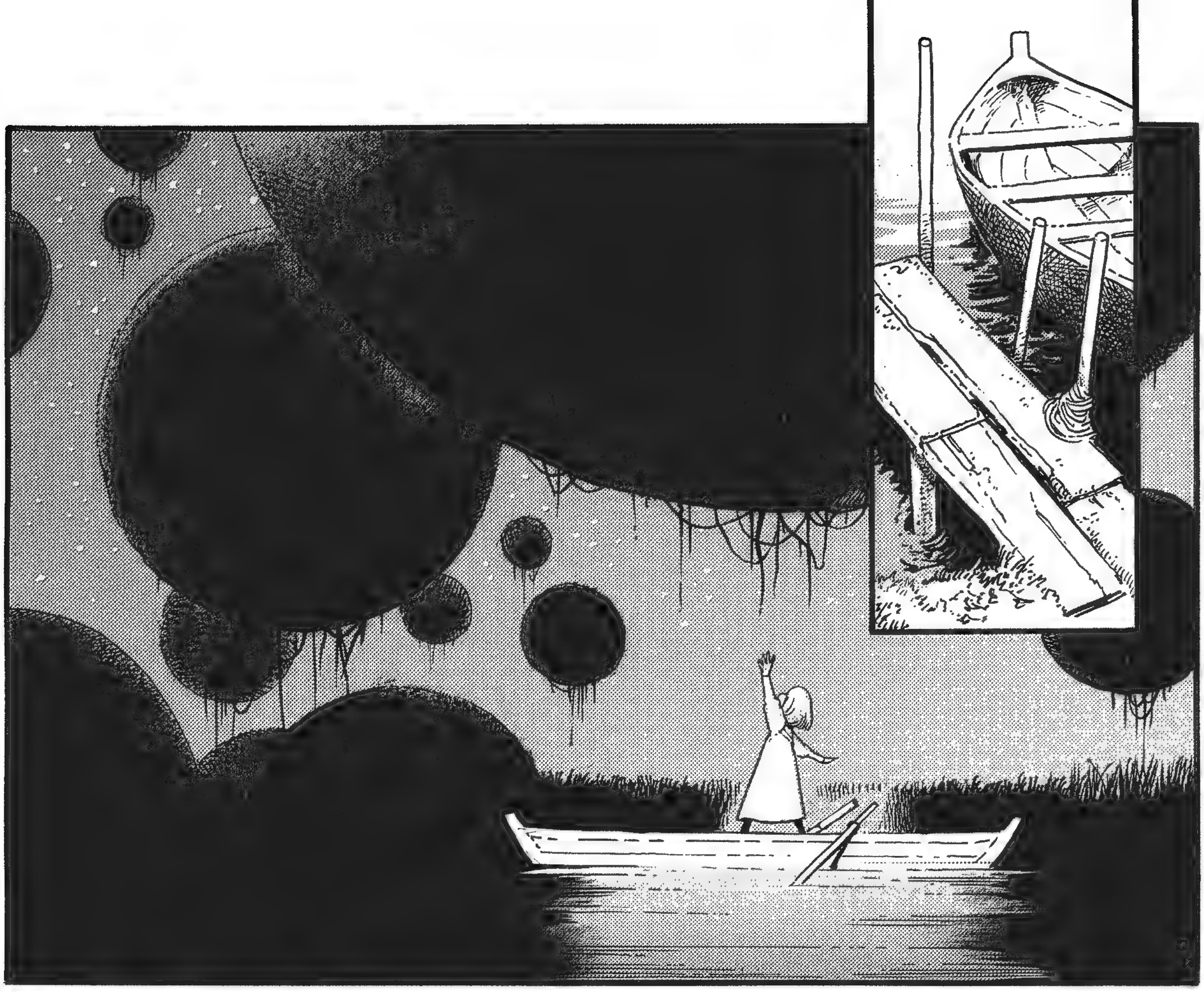
I'M HAVING SECONDS.

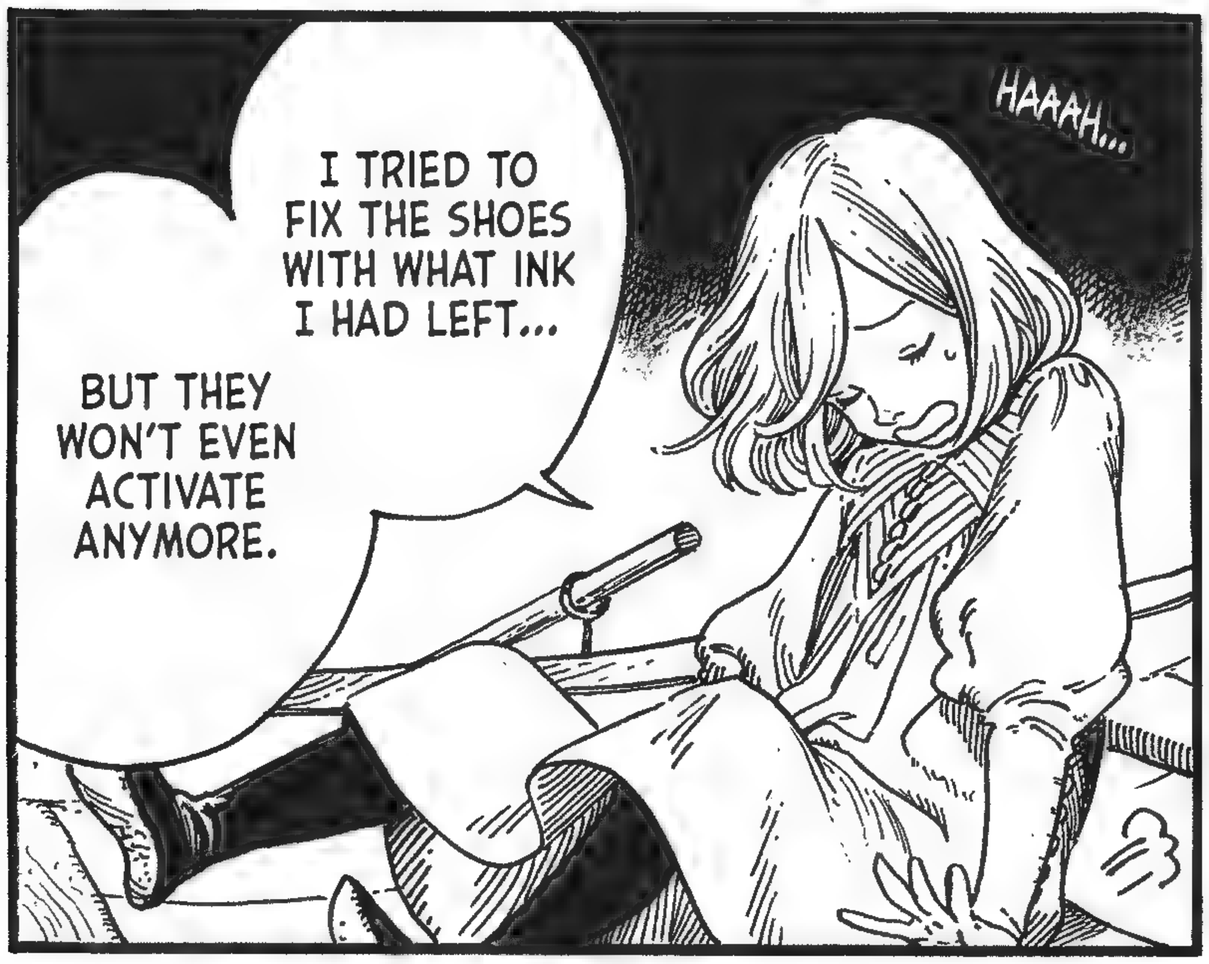
How can you be so unconcerned?!!

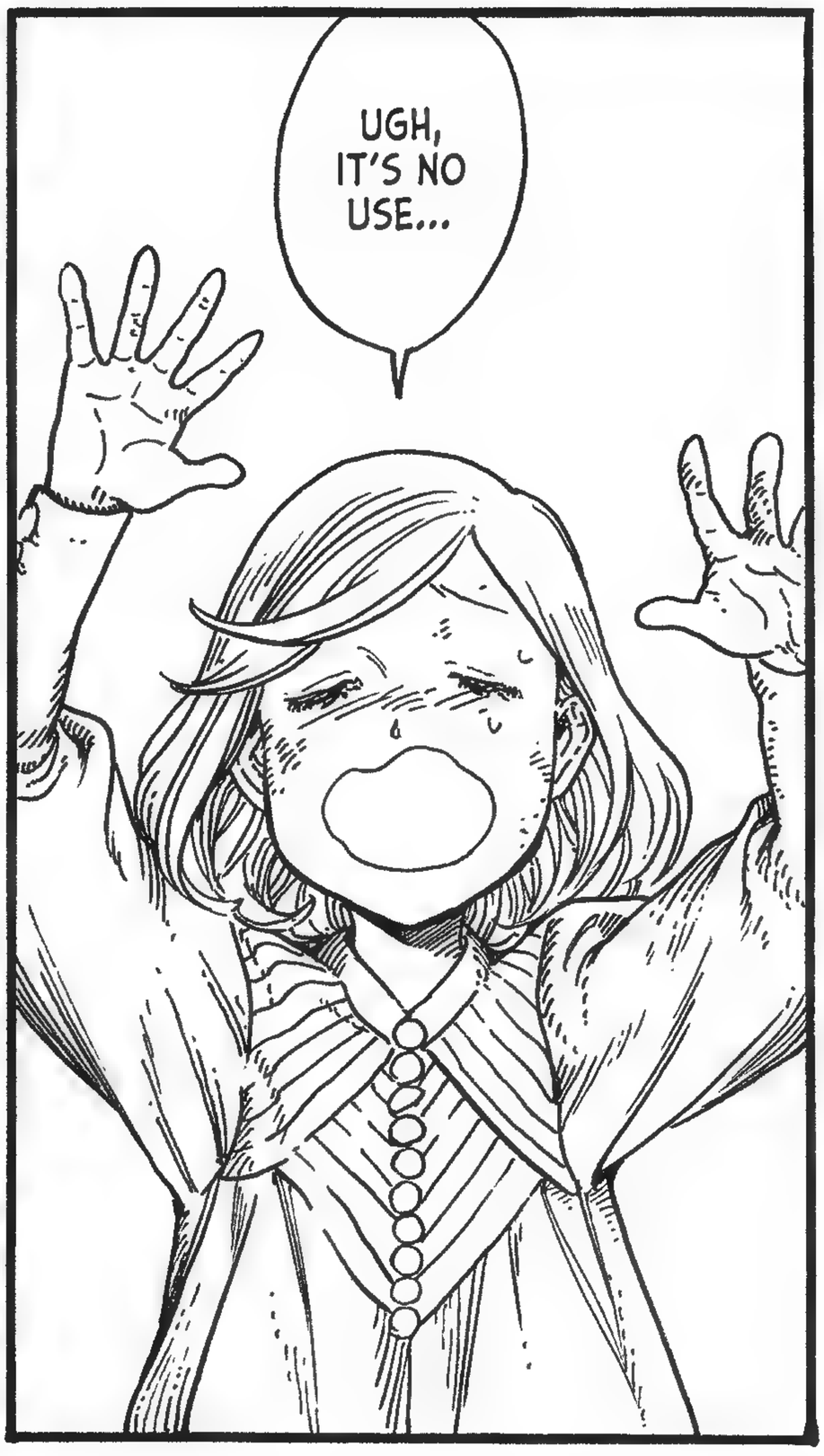
THRUMP ばたーん ばたーん THRUMP

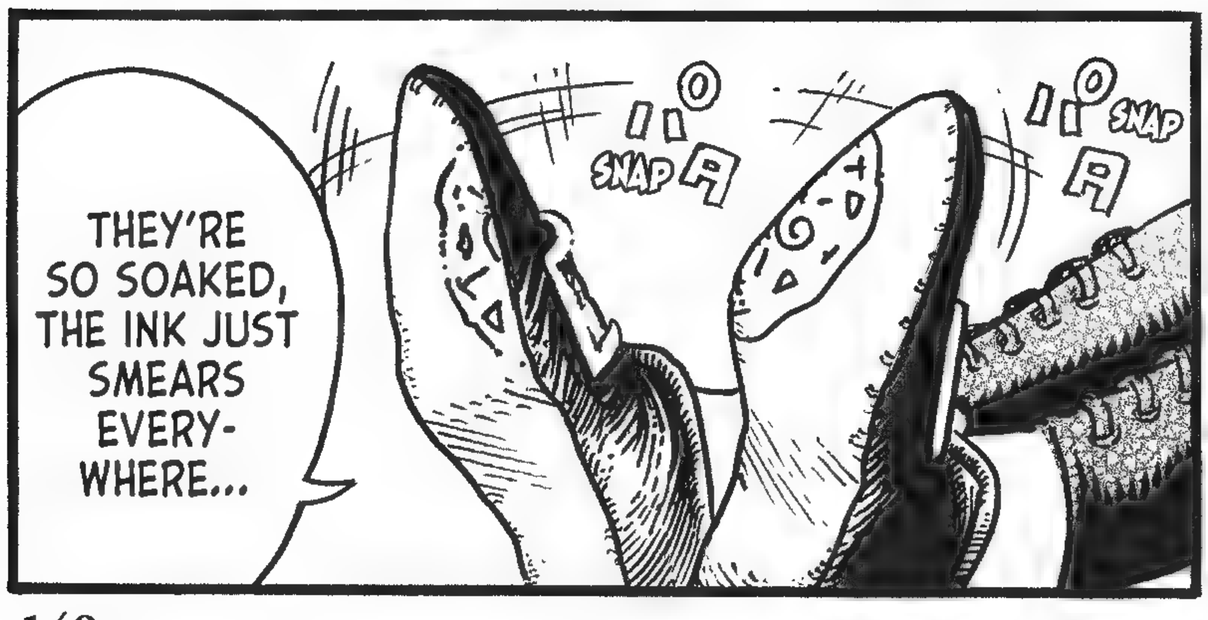
I'VE JUST GOT THIS...

...BIG *LUMP* IN MY STOMACH.




I TRIED TO FIX THE SHOES WITH WHAT INK I HAD LEFT...
BUT THEY WON'T EVEN ACTIVATE ANYMORE.
HAAAH...


UGH, IT'S NO USE...


THEY'RE SO SOAKED, THE INK JUST SMEARS EVERY-WHERE...
SNAP
SNAP

MAYBE IF I DREW IT ON THE SOLES OF MY FEET...?

DRAWING MAGIC DIRECTLY ON THE BODY IS FORBIDDEN.

NO. I CAN'T.

GULP

I DON'T EVEN KNOW...

...WHAT OTHER KINDS OF SPELLS THERE ARE TO TURN TO AT A TIME LIKE THIS...

FLOP

SLINK

PWEE!

JOLT

THUD

AGOTT WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG.

...DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT'S EASY TO DRAW WELL.

JUST BECAUSE ANYONE CAN DRAW MAGIC...

EVERYONE ELSE HAS BEEN DRAWING MAGIC SINCE THEY WERE LITTLE.

OF COURSE I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO...

"I HAD NO IDEA THIS VILLAGE WAS HOME TO SUCH AN ARTISAN."

"THIS IS SOME REAL MAGIC."

THAT'S IT! I HAVE MY OWN MAGIC!

JOLT

I GUESS...

...REGULAR FOLK REALLY DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES.

...AND TAPERED TO A POINT.

FIRST, I'VE GOTTA FIND A SMALL STONE, ONE AS FLAT AS POSSIBLE...

CLATTER

FINALLY, I'VE JUST GOTTA WET THE TIP.

...RIP OFF A LARGE ENOUGH STRIP, AND WRAP IT AROUND THE STONE.

THEN, I'LL TAKE THE INK-SOAKED POUCH...

FWISH

PIGMENT STONE

A STONE USED BY TAILORS TO MARK OUT PATTERNS ON CLOTH.

STRETCH!

THIS'LL WORK PERFECT-LY.

MY CLOAK'S DRIED STIFF WITH ALL THE MUD.

...THEN I'LL JUST SWITCH TO A TOOL I **AM** USED TO.

IF THAT'S HOW IT IS...

"EVERYONE'S UNSTEADY WHEN FIRST USING A NEW TOOL."

...WILL BE FREE TO DANCE AS THEY PLEASE.

AND MY FINGERS ...

PER-FECTLY FREE.

CHIRP CHIRP

CHIRP CHIRP

READY TO GO!

TUG!

MORNING, LITTLE BRUSH-BUDDY!

YOU'RE NOT SHY AT ALL, ARE YOU?

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

SO I DECIDED TO TRY USING JUST *ONE* AND MADE IT *REALLY* LONG!

TA-

DAH

I KNOW IT'S NOT A TYPICAL DESIGN.

BUT I ALSO LEARNED THAT UNEVEN SIGNS PUSH THE MAGIC IN ONE DIRECTION.

NORMALLY YOU PUT THE SIGIL IN THE CENTER, EVENLY SURROUNDED BY SIGNS.

YOU WANT TO COME ALONG?

PWEE!

ALL RIGHT...

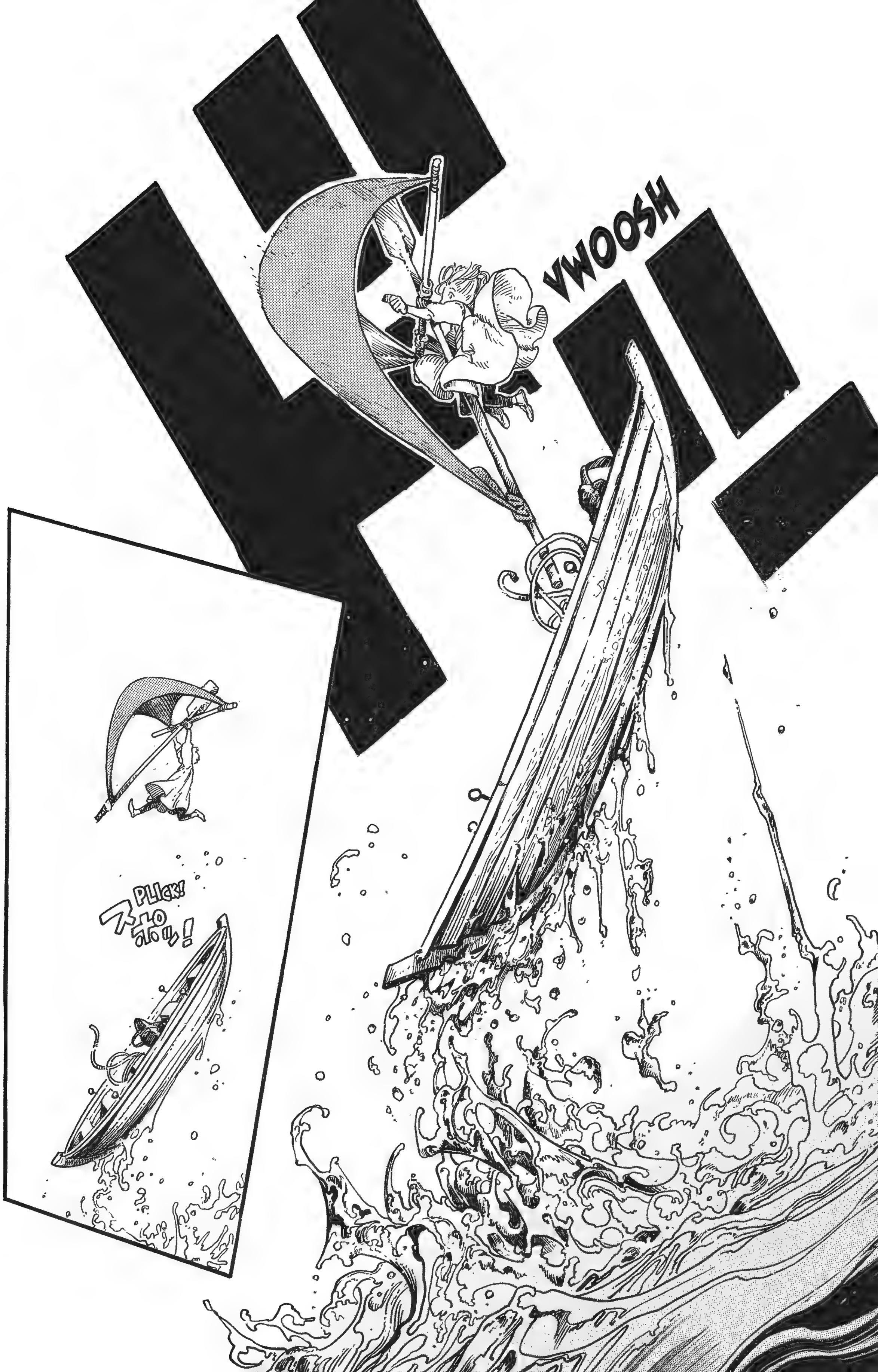
!

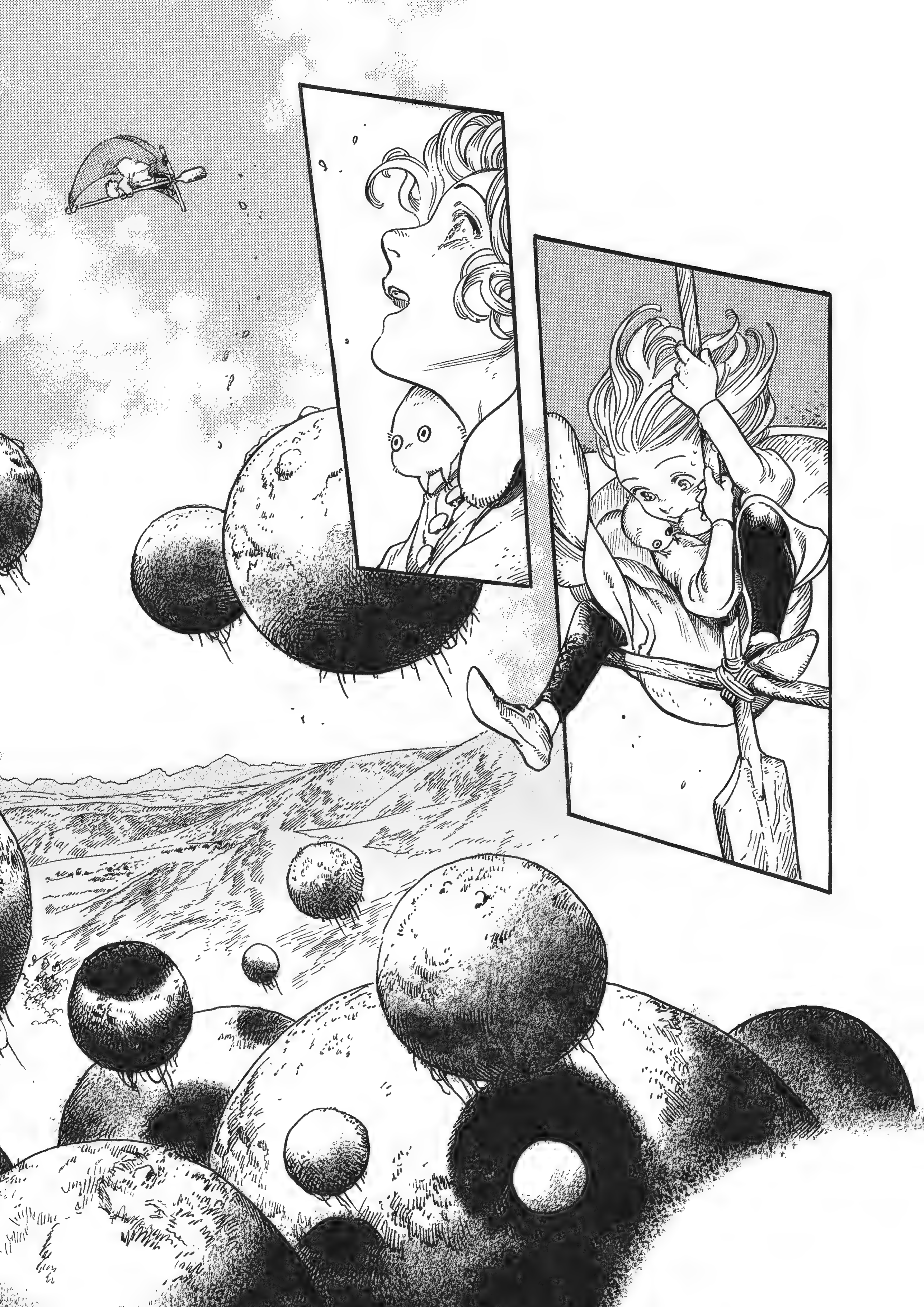
I HAVE NO IDEA IF THIS IS GONNA WORK...

SHHK

...BUT BE SURE TO HANG ON TIGHT!

'CAUSE HERE GOES NOTHING!


VWOOSH
PLICK!



...WITH MY VERY OWN MAGIC!

ジワ... PLIP

I DID IT!

I'M FLYING...

TUG!

...

IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE. A REAL, LIVE CLOAK OF FLIGHT!

IN THE END, IT WAS THE THINGS I LEARNED WHILE HELPING MOM...

...THAT SHOWED ME THE WAY TO USE MAGIC.

WAIT FOR ME, MOM. I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU.

I PROMISE TO FIX...

ポン
PW

フムッ
OOF!

...THE MISTAKE I MADE!

THUD

IT'S COCO! SHE'S...!

MASTER QIFREY!

AH, TETIA. I'M BACK.

NOD

NOD

...TO TAKE THE TEST?!

...SHE'S GONE BY HERSELF...

YOU MEAN...

SHE SHOULDN'T BE THERE AT ALL! IT'S TOO SOON!

SHE'S NOT LIKE US! SHE'S ONLY JUST ENTERED OUR WORLD!

IT'S FAR TOO RISKY!

WE HAVE TO STOP HER!

BUT SHE'LL *FAIL* IF WE...

...IT'S NOT ONLY THE GIRL WE'LL LOSE!

IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO COCO...

OKAY. THAT'S THE RIGHT SETTING...

GRRR

HUH?

COCO!

WE WERE SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

AGOTT...

GRAB

OH, COCO !!

YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!

I GOT THE CONSENT OF THE CROWN.

...

HERE'S MY PROOF. THIS MEANS I DID IT, RIGHT?

くるっ TWIRL

...COCO...

...!

...

USING MAGIC WITHOUT SUFFICIENT UNDERSTANDING...

...AND CAREFUL PREPARATION IS A VERY RECKLESS THING TO DO.

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THAT.

SLUMP しゅん...

AND, QUITE FRANKLY...

LIFT

...THERE WAS NO NEED TO BRAVE DANGER TO PROVE YOURSELF.

I'M SORRY, MASTER QIFREY...

A SINGLE MISSTEP COULD HAVE BEEN FATAL.

YOU MUST NEVER BEHAVE LIKE THIS AGAIN.

YOU ARE ALREADY MY APPRENTICE.

IS THIS...?!

THE MARK OF A WITCH.

A SYMBOL OF PRIDE ...

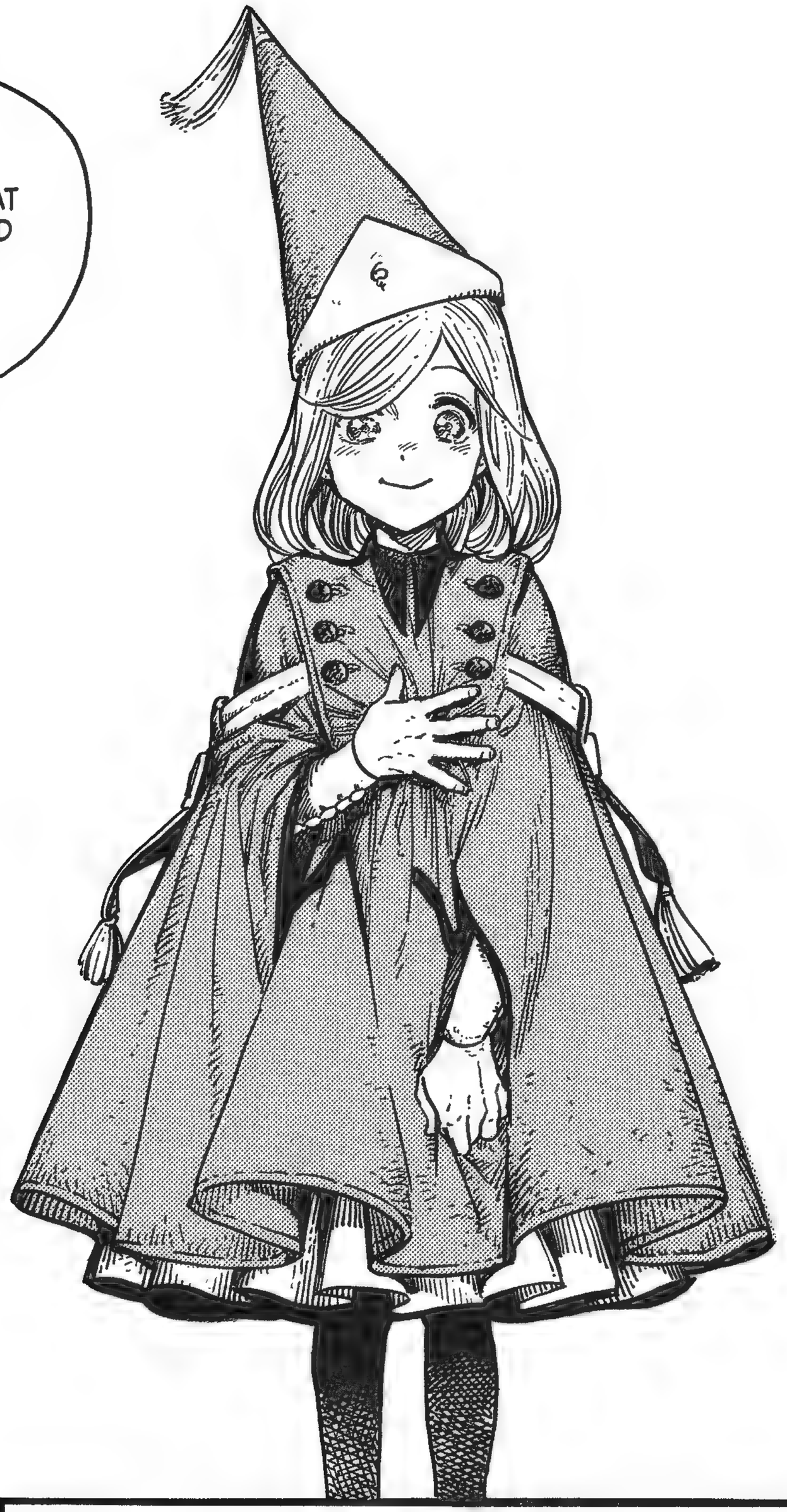
...YET ALSO OF YOUR SOLEMN VOW...

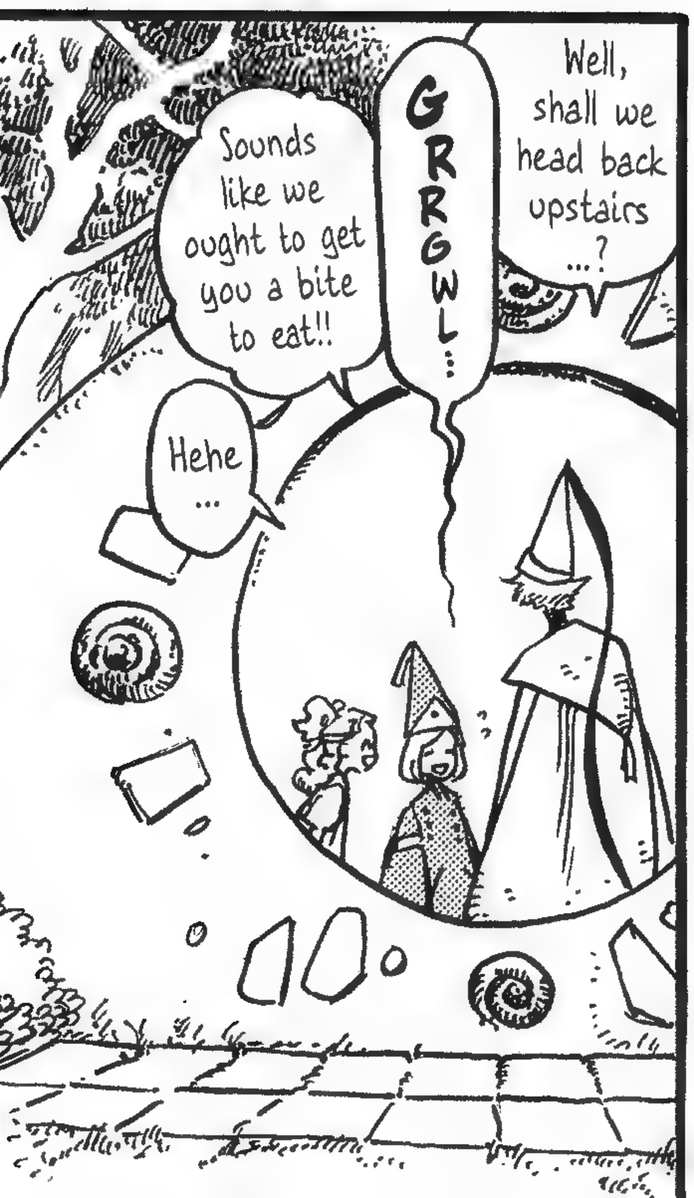
...NEVER TO USE MAGIC FOR VILE PURPOSES.

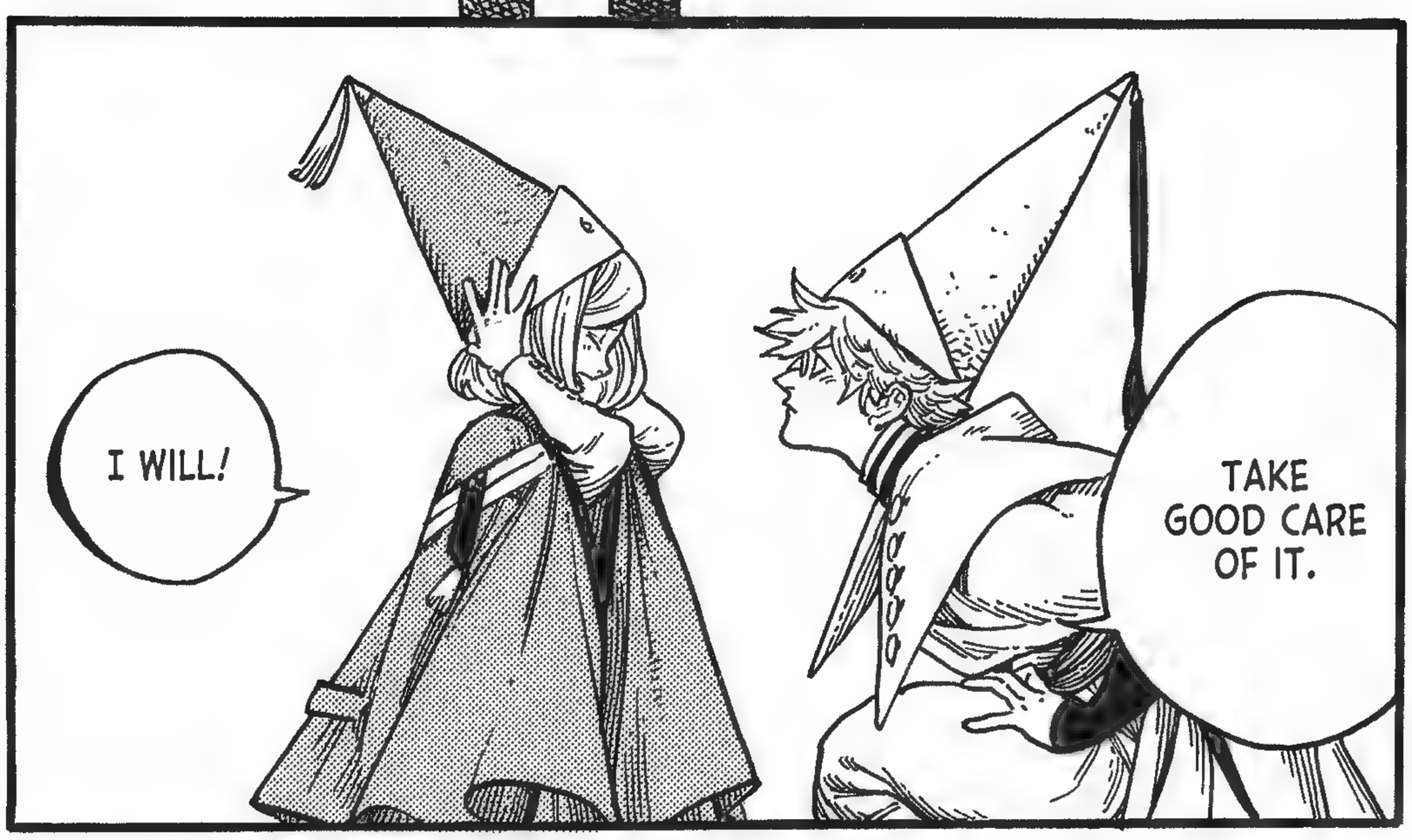
LET ITS WEIGHT EVER REMIND OF THE RESPONSIBILITY YOU BEAR.

FOR THAT POINTED CAP...

...SHALL BE WATCHING OVER YOU AND YOUR MAGIC.







RUFFLE

HA

ZZ!!

SO THE SEED HAS SPROUTED.

Witch Hat Atelier

OF THE GREAT MANY SIGILS IN EXISTENCE, FOUR ARE KNOWN TO WITCHES AS THE PRIMARY TETRAD.

THE *SIGIL OF MIGHT*, ABLE TO MANIPULATE AND MOVE TERRAIN, REDUCING GREAT STONES TO RUBBLE OR COALESCING SAND INTO BOULDERS (CLASSICALLY KNOWN AS THE *SIGIL OF EARTH*)

THE *SIGIL OF LEVITATION*, A GREAT MARVEL OF TRAVEL, BRINGING ACCESS TO MYRIAD LOCATIONS INACCESSIBLE BY FOOT (CLASSICALLY KNOWN AS THE *SIGIL OF WIND*)

THE *SIGIL OF WATER*, WITH THE MEANS TO COMMAND THE VERY SUBSTANCE THAT BEARS AND NURTURES ALL LIFE

THE *SIGIL OF FIRE*, FIERCE POWER WIELDED BY MANKIND AS BOTH BLADE AND AEGIS

OF THESE FOUR, THE *SIGIL OF FIRE* OFFERS MASTERY OVER A SUBSTANCE IMMATERIAL; WITHOUT PROPER BALANCE AND MANAGED SIZE, ITS FLAMES CAN QUICKLY GROW OUT OF CONTROL...

...AND THIS SIGIL MUST THEREFORE BE HANDLED WITH PARTICULAR CARE...

AHH! IT'S BURNING UP!

A-ARE YOU OKAY?

ザバー

KSPLLSH!!

SO... WHAT WERE YOU UP TO, ANYWAY?

AND THANK *YOU!*

WOBBLE WOBBLE

ヨロ ヨロ…

THANKS, TETIA.

SZZL!

I WAS DRAWING FIRE MAGIC.

"...BUT FIRE SUSPENDED IN *AIR* WILL BURN ON. THE PERFECT EXERCISE TO PRACTICE LEVITATION MAGIC!"

○

"ON ITS OWN, FIRE MAGIC WILL CONSUME THE PAPER AND THE SEAL ITSELF..."

×

SQLCH

じゃば

THAT'S WHAT MASTER QIFREY SAID, BUT...

FWAH

I CAN'T GET THE FLAME BALANCED RIGHT. SPARKS KEEP FALLING ONTO THE PAPER, SETTING EVERYTHING ON FIRE.

FWOOOOOSH

ちょばばばばびゅ——ん

...*FWOOSH*... ACROSS THE SKY, DIDN'T YOU?!

YOU FLEW ALL OVER THE PLACE, LIKE *WHOOSH*...

YOU CONQUERED THE DADAH RANGE!

WHY ARE YOU HUNG UP ON LEVITATION MAGIC?

BOB

ZZZ...

BOB

WHEN I WAS OUT THERE, I RUINED AGOTT'S SYLPH SHOES.

WE USED TO REPAIR TRAVELERS' SHOES AT HOME...

WHOA! DID YOU DO THIS?! THEY LOOK BRAND NEW!

I WANTED TO FIX THEM UP BEFORE I RETURNED THEM...

IT REALLY IS QUITE IMPOR-TANT...

...TO HAVE A PEN WHOSE WEIGHT AND GRIP SUITS YOU.

BUT MY LINES ALWAYS COME OUT ALL THIN AND WAVY...

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO REDRAW THE SEAL.

LEAN

PERHAPS WE NEED TO FIND YOU A NEW WAND.

THE ONE YOU HAVE NOW IS JUST ONE OF MY OWN OLD WANDS.

I SUPPOSE WE OUGHT TO HAVE YOU TRY A FEW AND SELECT FOR YOURSELF.

ALL RIGHT! THEN IT'S DECIDED.

WE'LL TAKE A TRIP TO THE STATIONER'S.

THE *MAGIC* STATIONER'S!

THERE'S ...

THERE'S A *SHOP* LIKE THAT...?!

THE *STATIONER'S!* EVEN THE *NAME* IS LOVELY...!

Oh, wow!

Oh, it sounds so great...!

UM... COCO?

JUST A MOMENT! I'M STILL SAVORING THE WORDS...!

KALHN, TOWN-SHIP OF THE MARSH-WOODS

WOW!

JUST SO. KALHN IS THE LARGEST SETTLEMENT OF WITCHES IN OUR AREA.

THERE ARE SO MANY WITCHES HERE!

WITCHES BUILT UP THIS SHOAL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER TO SUPPORT A GREAT WATCHTOWER...

...MEANT TO PROTECT THE TOWN FROM MOLEWYRMS INHABITING THE MARSHWOODS ON THE OPPOSITE BANK.

MASTER QIFREY...

I THINK COCO'S LEFT CLASS.

WOW...

THEY NEVER EVEN BUILT A BRIDGE. NO ONE NEEDED IT!

CLASSROOM MODE

WITCHES FLOCKED HERE, AND SOON IT WAS FULL OF ATELIERS.

AH, THAT'S A...

OVER THERE!

MASTER, WHAT'S THAT?!

SORRY, BUT...

THERE ARE WITCHES EVERYWHERE I LOOK!

IT'S LIKE I'M IN A DREAM...

キョロ TWIRL

キョロ TWIRL

I'LL MEET YOU AT THE STATIONER'S BEFORE IT'S TIME TO GO HOME. IS THAT ALL RIGHT?

I'D RATHER NOT SPEND MY TIME PLAYING TOUR GUIDE FOR COCO.

I... SUPPOSE.

SEE YOU THEN.

THERE ARE SOME SHOPS I'D LIKE TO VISIT...

...SO I'M GOING ON AHEAD.

...

UM!

WELL, UH...

ARE YOU AND AGOTT GETTING ALONG?

I'D LIKE TO BE FRIENDS WITH HER IF I CAN.

THAT TIME I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF HER DRAWING...

...HER LINES WERE SO PRECISE, AND HER SEALS SO LOVELY.

YEAH! THE BEST WITCHES ARE ALWAYS THE *WEIRDEST!*

IT'S *THAT* COMMON...?

I'M... NOT SO SURE THAT'S THE CASE...

I'M SURE ANYONE WHO DRAWS MAGIC LIKE THAT MUST BE A LOVELY *PERSON*, TOO.

LEEEAN

PERSONALITY AND SKILL AREN'T RELATED...

IT'S BEST IF YOU DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP.

COME IN AND SEE.

WELCOME TO "THE STARRY SWORD" ...

STATIONER EXTRAORDI-NAIRE.

UP HERE, COCO!

WHOA...

CHATTER ガヤ

BUSTLE ワイ

GASP!

MUST'VE IMAGINED THAT... RIGHT?

OH, UM... IT'S NOTHING.

COCO? WHAT'S WRONG?

WELL, I'LL BE... AN APPRENTICE GAWKIN' AT A SILVERWOOD?

THERE'S A HUGE TREE RIGHT INSIDE THE SHOP.

PLEASE EXCUSE COCO.

SHE ONLY RECENTLY BECAME AN APPRENTICE, MISTER NOLNOA.

HAVEN'T YOU EVER SEEN ONE? IT DON'T GET MORE BASIC THAN THAT.

AHA HA HA HA!

WELL, THAT EXPLAINS IT!

'COURSE YOU'D BE GAWKIN'! SORRY, LITTLE MISS.

LEAN T...

HO! IS THAT SO?

THEN *THIS* GIRL MUST BE THE...

HE OWNS THIS SHOP, *THE STARRY SWORD!*

THIS IS MISTER NOLNOA, COCO.

YOU DIDN'T RECOGNIZE MY TREE, AND I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU! S'POSE THAT MAKES US EVEN!

...AT WHATEVER CONCEN-TRATION YOU NEED!

EVERY KIND OF WAND AND INK UNDER THE SUN. EVEN DO CUSTOM EXTRACTIONS ...

THAT'S RIGHT! ALL THE COMPONENTS YOU'LL FIND HERE WERE CRAFTED BY ME 'N' MY GRANDSON, TARTAH!

AS I SAID, SHE ONLY RECENTLY BEGAN...

A FINE HEAD OF HAIR AND SCHOLARLY GOOD LOOKS AIN'T NO EXCUSE! A TEACHER'S GOTTA TEACH!

QIFREY, MY LAD, YOU BEEN SPENDIN' TOO MUCH TIME AWAY FROM THE CLASSROOM?

"Scholarly good looks"...?

?

"EXTRAC-TIONS"...?

SHKT

SHKT

SHKT

?

O-OKAY!

WELL, FOR YOU, COCO, I'LL PROVIDE A DEMONSTRATION. FOLLOW ME.

YOU COMIN'?

YES!

YOU'RE IN LUCK! THIS BRANCH HAS BLACKENED UP REAL NICE.

SN 110

AP 111

NOW WATCH CLOSELY.

PLUNK

188

THAT, COCO, IS WOODCRUOR.

REALLY?!

IT GOT ALL DARK!

SEEP

シ…

LEFT LIKE THAT, THEY'RE POISONOUS. TO THE TREE, 'N' TO PEOPLE, TOO.

DRAIN ONE OUT IN BOILIN' WATER, SIPHON OFF THE EXCESS AND...

BLUP

WHEN THE HEALTHY, SILVER-WHITE BRANCHES WITHER, THEY GO BLACK AS COAL.

BUT CONJURING INK IS DIFFERENT.

COMMONPLACE INK IS MADE BY BURNING WOOD AND COLLECTING SOOT LEFT BY THE SMOKE.

SPLISH

...PRESTO, THE ROOT OF MAGIC ITSELF—RAW INK, READY TO REFINE.

AND THUS THE TREE IS OF SPECIAL IMPORT TO WITCHES.

AS THE NAME "WOODCRUOR" IMPLIES...

...WE HARVEST THE "BLOOD" OF THE SILVER-WOOD.

... AND OFFERED UP ITS BRANCHES AS WANDS AND CRUOR AS INK...

THERE'S AN OLD LEGEND THAT A SILVERWOOD ONCE FELL IN LOVE WITH A WITCH...

OH, THAT'S RIGHT! A WAND!

RIGHT! CAN'T GET INK FROM ANY OTHER TREE, STRANGE AS IT SEEMS.

I'M SURE THERE'S ONE DOWN THERE THAT'S PERFECT FOR YOU, LITTLE MISS.

THAT'S RIGHT.

...IS THAT WHAT BROUGHT YOU IN TODAY? WAND SHOPPING?

WELL, NOW...

THEN I S'POSE YOU'LL NEED A BIT OF THIS TO TRY A FEW OUT.

LET'S GO, COCO!

OKAY!

WE'LL BE DOWN-STAIRS IN THE SHOP, MASTER!

BY THE WAY, MISTER NOLNOA, I WONDER IF YOU MIGHT ORDER IN SOME PAPER FOR ME.

WHAT KIND OF WAND ARE YOU GONNA GET?

I LIKE THE ONE YOU HAVE, TETIA. IT'S SO LIGHT AND...

COCO?!

W...

A!!...!

DASH

WAIT!

I'M LOOKING FOR SOLES FOR SYLPH SHOES.

SOMETHING IN MY SIZE. PREFERABLY NOT OF WOOD...

AGOTT!

DID COCO COME BY HERE?!

WHAT'S *THAT* ABOUT?

HUH?!

TMP TMP

HEY, WHAT'RE YOU...?!

WE'VE GOTTA CATCH UP!

COME ON, AGOTT!

SHE JUST SPED OFF.

NO IDEA...

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

PANT PANT

WHY DO *I* HAVE TO GO...?!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

BILLOW EE EE OOO

COCO! WAIT UP!

FWSH...

WHERE ARE YOU RUNNING OFF TO?!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

!

THE ONE WHO SOLD ME THE BOOK OF FORBIDDEN SPELLS!

TH-THAT WITCH WAS THERE! IN FRONT OF THE SHOP!

AT LEAST WE'RE TOGETHER! LET'S GET BACK...

...TO THE SHOP.

ALWAYS CAUSING A FUSS...

...I WAS TOO SLOW.

PAUSE...

HEY...

HUH ...?

AND LOOK AROUND ...

...JUST ONE ALLEY OFF THE MAIN ROAD?

...DOESN'T THIS PLACE SEEM *REALLY* DIFFERENT FOR BEING...

...THE ARCHITECTURE HAS COMPLETELY CHANGED.

KALHN DOESN'T HAVE ROADS AND WALLS OF WHITE STONE LIKE THIS...

BUT WE CAN'T BE TOO FAR AWAY, RIGHT?

I WAS SO FOCUSED ON RUNNING, I GUESS I GOT US ALL LOST.

FWP

HUH? SO WHERE ARE WE?

AND...UM... WHICH WAY DID WE COME FROM?

TH...

THAT'S SILLY! WE DIDN'T PASS THROUGH ANY WINDOW-WAY...

...AND IT'S NOT LIKE WE *TELEPORTED!*

WE JUST GOT TURNED AROUND! THAT'S ALL!

ARE WE NOT IN KALHN ANYMORE?

THAT WE JUST GOT TURNED AROUND?

NO, NOT THAT.

...SHE MIGHT HAVE A POINT.

I'LL GO CHECK WHERE WE ARE FROM ABOVE!

TETIA, WAIT!

...SPELLS LIKE THAT ARE *FORBIDDEN*...

WE COULD HAVE BEEN TELEPORTED DIRECTLY. WITHOUT OUR KNOWLEDGE.

BUT... I THOUGHT THAT WASN'T ALLOWED?

MASTER QIFREY SAID...

TETIA?! WHAT'S WRONG?!

!!

EEEEEK!!

WE'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE! RUN!!

GR

AB

WE ARE *DEFINITELY* NOT IN KALHN ANYMORE!!

BAD NEWS! *REALLY* BAD NEWS!

TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

DID YOU SEE SOME-THING?

WAIT! TETIA, SLOW DOWN!

WHAT'RE YOU TAL—

IT SAW ME!!

IT'S NOT JUST THAT *I SAW IT!*

MISTER NOLNOA!

OH, YOU SILVER-TONGUED SCAMP. ♡

OF COURSE NOT! THIS SHOP IS THE MOST FASCINATING PLACE IN THE WORLD FOR THEM!

They'd spend all day in here!!

MY APPRENTICES!

HAVE YOU SEEN THEM?! I CAN'T FIND THEM ANYWHERE!

HM? THEY GET BORED AND WANDER OFF?

I SAW THEM.

IT'S MOST UNLIKE THEM TO LEAVE WITHOUT THANKING YOU.

WHERE COULD THEY HAVE...

THEY WERE CHASING AFTER A WITCH IN SOME WEIRD GARB.

THE WITCH HAD...

...A MASK IN THE SHAPE OF AN EYE-BALL...

I'VE NO BUSINESS WITH THE OTHER THREE, BUT...

I SUPPOSE WE'LL JUST...

...HAVE TO COPE.

NONETHE-LESS...

WELCOME, COCO... TO THE WORLD OF MAGIC.

YOU ARE OUR...

...ONE AND ONLY HOPE.

AN INTRODUCTION TO CASTING SEALS

A HANDY REFERENCE ON THE BASIC DESIGNS OF AND RULES FOR CONSTRUCTING MAGIC SEALS.

THE THREE ELEMENTS OF A SEAL

SIGIL

OCCUPIES THE CENTER OF THE SEAL AND DETERMINES THE TYPE OF SPELL CAST.

EXAMPLES

SIGIL OF WIND

SIGIL OF WIND UNDERFOOT

SIGIL OF WATER

SIGNS

ARRANGED AROUND THE SIGIL TO INFLUENCE THE FORM, SIZE, AND DIRECTION OF THE SPELL.

EXAMPLES

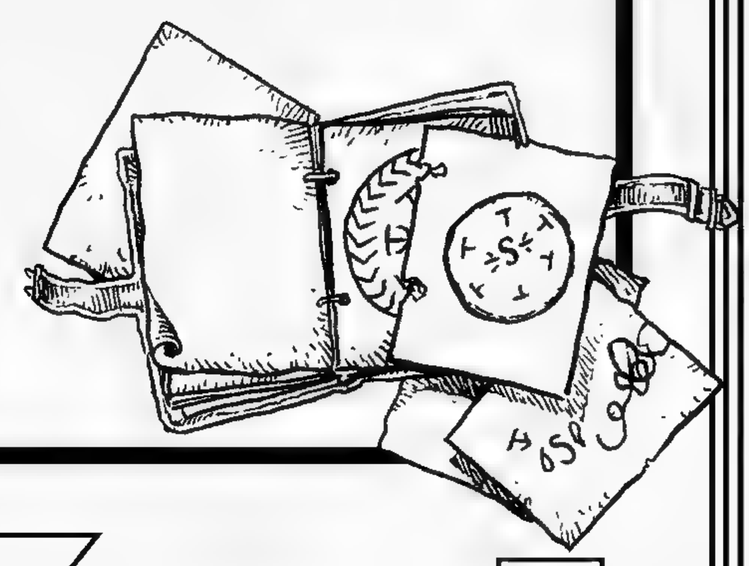
SIGN OF LEVITATION

SIGN OF COLUMNS

SIGN OF CONVERGENCE

RING

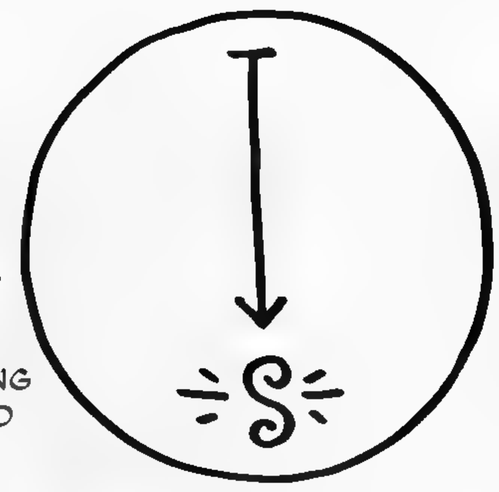
ENCOMPASSES THE SIGIL AND SIGNS. COMPLETING THE RING ACTIVATES THE SPELL.



EXAMPLES OF CASTING SEALS

SEAL USED ON SYLPH SHOES

BRINGING BOTH HALVES OF THIS SEAL TOGETHER GRANTS STABLE FLIGHT, ENABLING THE USER TO SOAR THROUGH THE SKY.

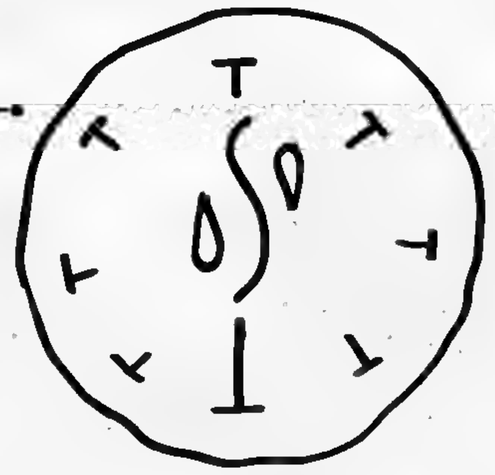


COCO'S SEAL AT THE DADAH RANGE

THE SIGIL IN THIS SEAL IS OFF-CENTER, INFLUENCED BY A SINGLE, EXTREMELY LONG SIGN. IT PRODUCED A VERY POWERFUL AND SHORT-LIVED GUST OF WIND.

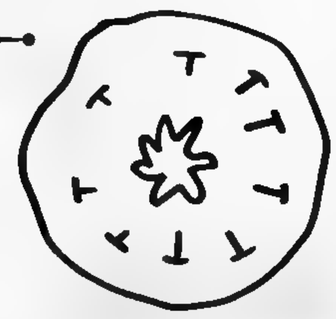
COCO'S SEAL IN THE ATELIER

A SINGLE SIGN DRAWN LONGER THAN THE OTHERS CAUSED THE SPELL TO DRENCH AGOTT IN WATER. INCIDENTALLY, MASTER QIFREY IS PARTICULARLY SKILLED WITH WATER MAGIC, ENABLING HIM TO CAST MARVELS SUCH AS THE FLOWER MADE OF WATER.



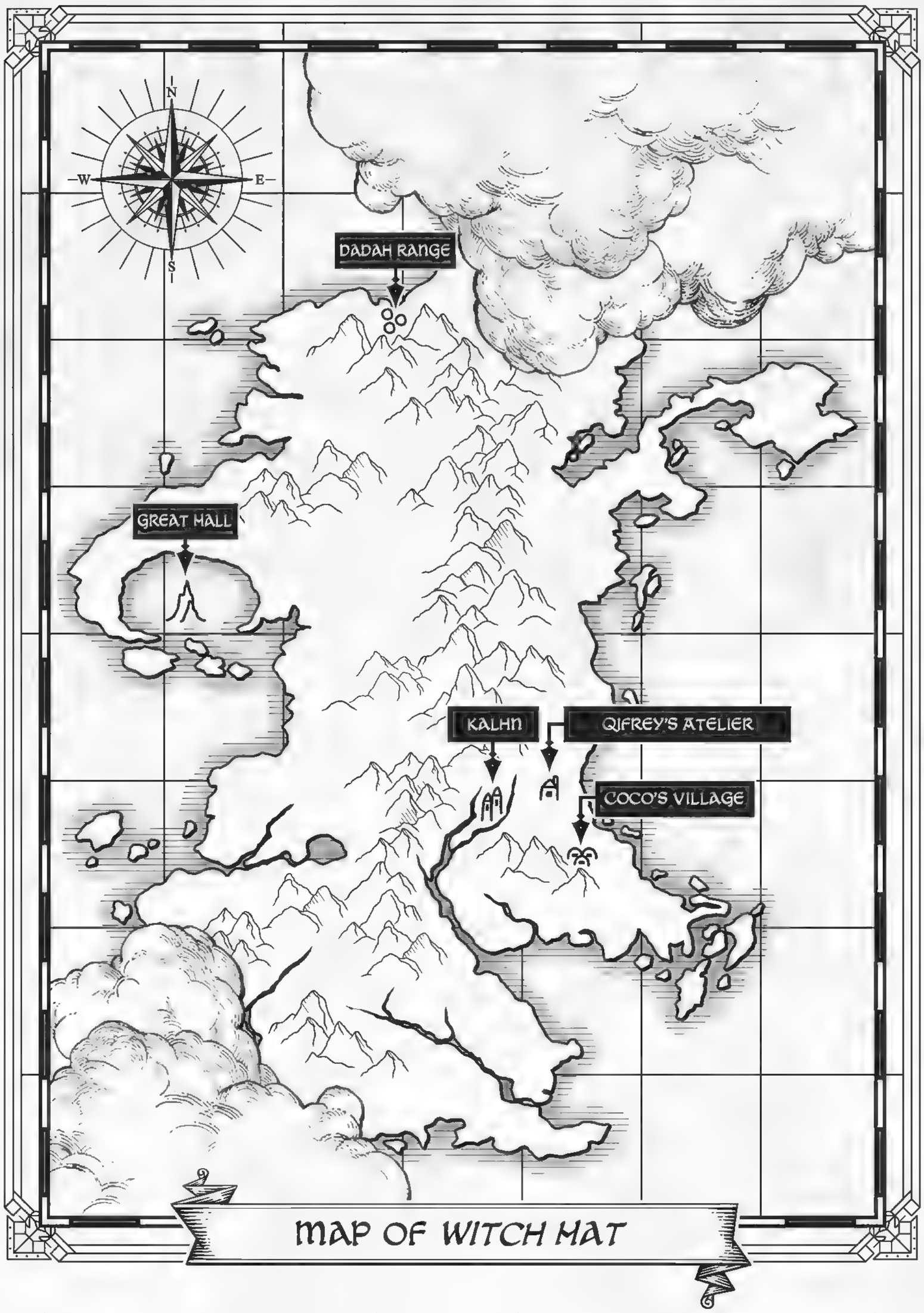
COCO'S VERY FIRST SEAL

THIS SEAL RESULTED IN A SMALL, FLICKERING LIGHT. AS IT WAS COPIED FROM THE BOOK OF FORBIDDEN SPELLS, ITS INTENDED EFFECT IS UNKNOWN.



THE WORLD OF *WITCH HAT ATELIER*

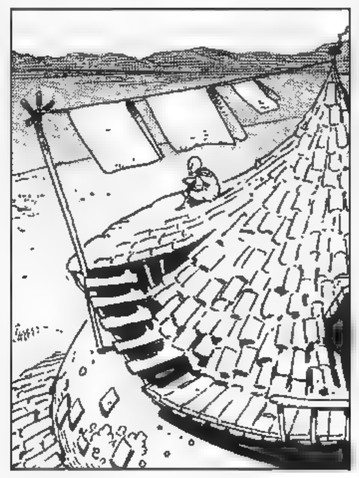
A BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF THE WORLD INHABITED BY COCO AND HER FRIENDS.



MAP OF *WITCH HAT*

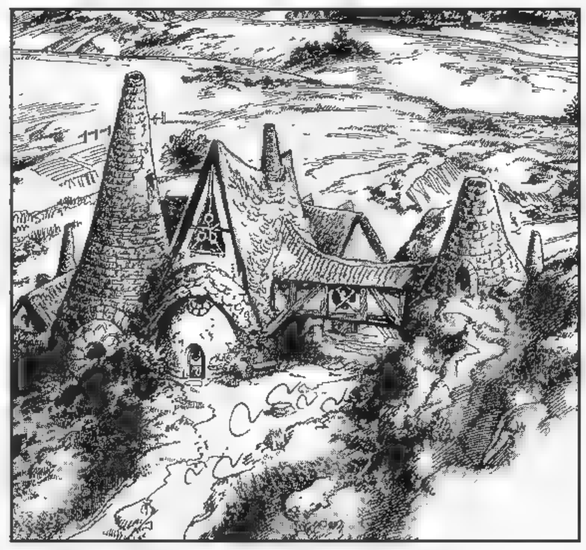
COCO'S VILLAGE

A SMALL, RURAL VILLAGE NESTLED IN THE FOOTHILLS. CONTRAPTIONS ARE NOT UNHEARD OF HERE, BUT NEITHER ARE THEY FOUND IN GREAT NUMBER. COCO'S HOME INCLUDES A TAILORING SHOP, WHERE COCO HAS HELPED OUT SINCE SHE WAS VERY YOUNG.



QIFREY'S ATELIER

A SINGLE, LONELY BUILDING FOUND A SHORT WAY FROM COCO'S VILLAGE. MANY WITCHES CHOOSE TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN THE GREAT HALL, BUT QIFREY PREFERS TO LIVE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR REASONS UNKNOWN.

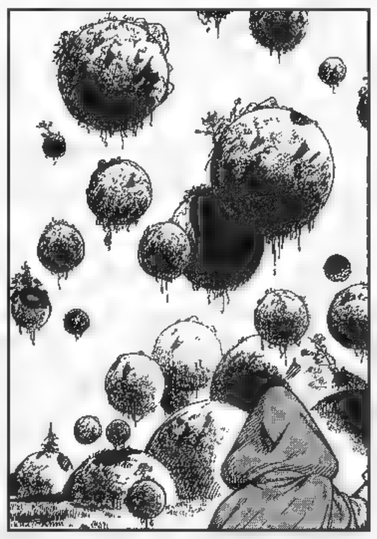


GREAT HALL

A MASSIVE STRUCTURE POPULATED BY POWERFUL WITCHES. IT LIES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA AND CAN ONLY BE ACCESSED BY DESCENDING A DEEP STAIRWELL WHOSE ENTRANCE IS LOCATED ABOVE THE WAVES.

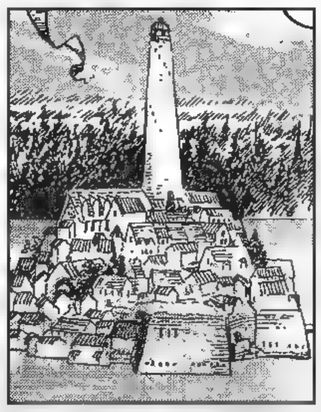
DADAH RANGE

THE LOCATION OF THE TEST ONE MUST PASS TO BECOME AN APPRENTICE. AN ANCIENT SPELL CAST THERE KEEPS THE MOUNTAINS SUSPENDED IN AIR. THE EXCLUSIVE HABITAT OF THE DIADEM HERB, NEEDED AS PROOF OF COMPLETING THE TEST.



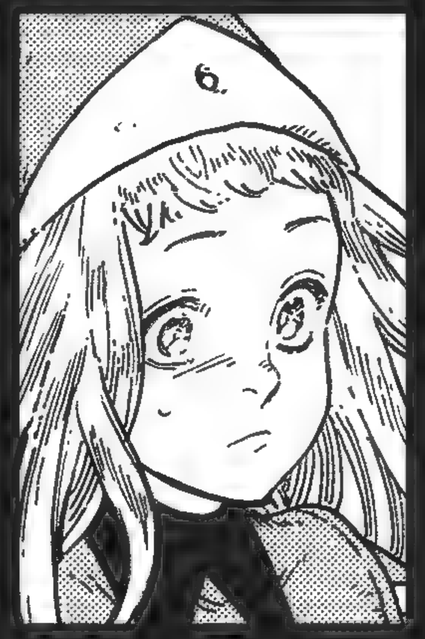
KALHN

A TOWN OF WITCHES, EASILY ACCESSIBLE FROM QIFREY'S ATELIER. PART OF THE TOWN IS BUILT ATOP AN ISLAND, HOME EXCLUSIVELY TO ARTISANS OF MAGIC TOOLS AND OTHERS ENGAGED IN THE USE OF MAGIC.



ARE ONLY THE CHOSEN ABLE TO USE MAGIC...?

Tetia and Agott's unease about the girls' new plight quickly slips to anger. As Coco witnesses the change in attitude, she's plagued with guilt for wrapping her new friends up in this dire situation. Was it a mistake for an Outsider to try to learn to wield magic? The four apprentices search desperately for answers, but time is running thin.



Volume 2: On sale in Summer 2019!

Kamome Shirahama

This story was sparked by a casual comment from a friend, who mentioned that the process of bringing an illustration into the world seemed just like magic. I'd like to offer a word of thanks here to all my imaginative friends, whose many ideas helped form the world of *Witch Hat Atelier*. I'd also like to express my gratitude to you, my readers, who in opening this book come to be a part of its world.

About the Author

Freelance illustrator and manga creator. Graduate of the Department of Design at Tokyo University of the Arts. Also illustrates comic book covers for Marvel Comics and DC Comics, as well as comic books in the *Star Wars* franchise. Other manga work includes the 3-volume series *Eniale & Dewiel.*

Cover Design ♦ Sava Design

a silent voice

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Shoya is a bully. When Shoko, a girl who can't hear, enters his elementary school class, she becomes their favorite target, and Shoya and his friends goad each other into devising new tortures for her. But the children's cruelty goes too far. Shoko is forced to leave the school, and Shoya ends up shouldering all the blame. Six years later, the two meet again. Can Shoya make up for his past mistakes, or is it too late?

Available now in print and digitally!

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Having lost his wife, high school teacher Kōhei Inuzuka is doing his best to raise his young daughter Tsumugi as a single father. He's pretty bad at cooking and doesn't have a huge appetite to begin with, but chance brings his little family together with one of his students, the lonely Kotori. The three of them are anything but comfortable in the kitchen, but the healing power of home cooking might just work on their grieving hearts.

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sweetness & lightning

By Gido Amagakure

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17 years after the original *Cardcaptor Sakura* manga ended, CLAMP returns with more magical adventures from a beloved manga classic!

Cardcaptor Sakura

CLEAR CARD

Sakura Kinomoto's about to start middle school, and everything's coming up cherry blossoms. Not only has she managed to recapture the scattered Clow Cards and make them her own Sakura Cards, but her sweetheart Syaoran Li has moved from Hong Kong to Tokyo and is going to be in her class! But her joy is interrupted by a troubling dream in which the cards turn transparent, and when Sakura awakens to discover her dream has become reality, it's clear that her magical adventures are far from over...

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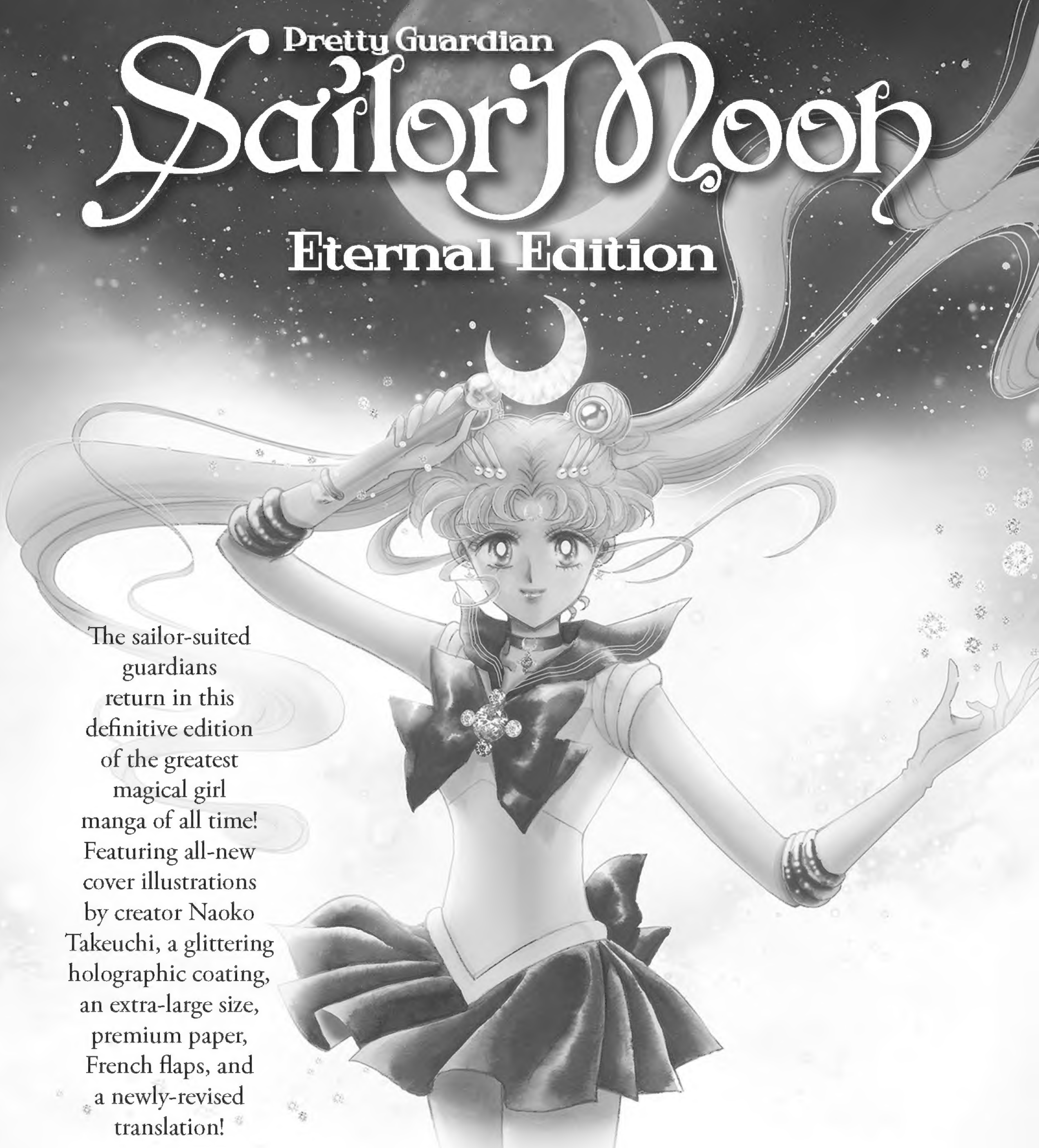
Eternal Edition



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Witch Hat Atelier 1

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